

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, May 9, 2013

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Half a man

Biggest loser Dean is the winner in shedding 17st

Page 5



Pan's of past

Lost footage of TOTP dance group is found

Page 6



Final winners

Young Hawks get their name on the cup first

Page 39



Possible sites for Heathens narrowed

A NEW possible home for Dudley Heathens speedway stadium has emerged following talks between the council leader and club officials.

Heathens bosses met with Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks to examine the viability of locations in the borough. The club is looking for a new base after their former home, Dudley Wood Stadium, was sold for housing in 1995.

They use Wolverhampton's Monmore Green as a home.

Club leaders said they were considering several sites across Dudley – and highlighted one – but they are keeping tight-lipped about its location.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson thanked Councillor Sparks and said he hoped it would mark a milestone in the campaign.

The club called for the talks in a bid to push forward stadium prospects almost two decades since the downfall of the former Cradley side. Both Dudley and Sandwell councils have been approached by the Heathens in the past but a deal has yet to materialise.

"I was very pleased with the meeting and he was very forthright and honest in his views," said Mr Pearson.

Mr Pearson reiterated there is no long-term future for the club in Wolverhampton.

Waste row meeting on

A PUBLIC meeting over controversial plans for a waste recycling plant is to go ahead despite bosses behind the scheme snubbing it, say councillors.

Energy firm Clean Power Ltd is seeking to build the plant on disused land near to a railway line, off Moor Street, Brierley Hill, close to the former Royal Brierley Crystal glassworks. But residents have objected to the plan. Last week bosses from the firm declined to attend the meeting at Brookmoor Primary School, Belle Isle, Brookmoor, on May 15 at 7pm.

COUNCIL PLAN TO BRING 2,000 JOBS

by Alex Ross

COUNCIL bosses in Dudley hope to generate more than 2,000 jobs in an ailing part of the borough as part of a scheme to breathe new life into the area.

Council deputy leader Shaukat Ali will set a four-year target to fill up empty offices at the Waterfront complex in Brierley Hill when he unveils plans for enterprise zone for the once-thriving site.

The scheme will be led by the council in partnership with office owners and will attract businesses by offering a reduction in rates for two years. The site has 750,000 sq ft in office space altogether. However, 40 per cent of it is vacant, including the flagship Point North, left empty by Egg several years ago. Councillor Ali said he hoped the offices could be filled under the scheme, bringing in 2,140 new jobs – double the amount already at the site.

Parking in town to rise 10p per hour

PARKING charges in Dudley will go up for the first time in six years following a decision by council bosses to bring the town's prices nearer to other local authorities' prices.

Prices at the town's car parks have been increased by 10p per hour but it remains one of the cheapest in the West Midlands.

The changes which will come into effect on May 27 will be the first since they were last altered in 2007 and have been introduced as the city continues its multi-million pound transformation of the town centre which includes the recently announced £4.1 million element of a £6.7 million transformation of the market place while planning approval has also been granted for a £10 million regeneration of Castle Hill.

Councillor Judy Foster, said: "We have always kept parking charges on borough car parks to a very competitive rate in comparison with other authorities and even with this small increase, Dudley car parks remain among the cheapest to use in the region.

In addition to this we also offer free on-street parking across all of our towns."

Short stay prices will increase from 50p to 60p per hour in the borough's main town centres and go from 40p to 50p per hour in smaller centres.

● Fears – Page 2

He said: "We want to see Merry Hill and the Waterfront fully occupied with offices and shops and we are to do whatever we can to achieve that.

"The zone we are working up will provide new businesses to Dudley with a two-year discount in rates.

"We are going through the fine detail right now, in talks with office owners and taking legal advice, but we hope to have it put to the council's cabinet in the near future. It could be in place by the end of this year."

Upturn

Councillor Ali said he hoped any upturn in office occupancy rates in the Waterfront would also kick start the surrounding economy.

The site once boasted a lively night life with a string of bars and clubs along the canal. Now, only a Wetherspoons pub remains.

He said: "Things have been difficult in terms of the economy and this has had an impact to people and business.

"It has gone down to individual decisions by business owners to move out or close, I hope, with more workers in the that area, we will see a change in the situation."

The council also has an outline strategy to expand office development from the Waterfront toward Pensnett and Holly Hall. It would see up to a million sq ft in new office space, bringing an extra 6,000 new jobs.

But no timeline is in place and it depends on the success on schemes such as the enterprise zone.

As part of the council's bid to bring in new businesses to the Waterfront a task team called Dudley Business First is promoting the borough across the country.

Cyclists working in tandem



Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, and Deputy Mayor Alan Finch, during their charity tandem bike ride at the Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club

A CHARITY tandem ride in Halesowen has raised hundreds of pounds for good causes.

The mayor and his deputy were among fundraisers who helped bring in more than £400 during the event.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram and deputy mayor Councillor Alan Finch, completed 10 laps of the Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club track on a tandem at the weekend.

Crowds gathered to cheer the pair on while cyclists, including Dudley Council

chief executive John Polychronakis, also joined them. All the money raised will be given to the Mayor's charities, Dudley Stroke Association and Diabetes UK: Stourbridge, Dudley and District Support Group.

Councillor Mottram said: "It was a fantastic day and great to see so many people showing their support for the charities. The money is still coming in but we expect to raise over £400 for the two charities which will help them continue their excellent work."

Patients pack out hospital meeting

MORE nurses, stronger leadership on wards and better communication between staff and patients have been highlighted as key areas to improve quality of care at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

More than 70 current and former patients packed out a public meeting on Tuesday to air their views as part of an investigation over high death rates.

NHS medical director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh is leading a review of 14 hospital trusts, including Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, in the wake of the Stafford Hospital scandal.

Patients and their families met with members of the panel to share their stories of their treatment.

Renal patient Michael Hardy, aged 58, of Leabank Road, Halesowen, said he was concerned about the hours staff had to work.

"Some are doing a 14-hour shift and then are on calls as well," he said.

Elaine Weston, 54, of Swan Street, Pensnett, said her 28-year-old daughter Kelly had died in 2009.

Mrs Weston said: "I have come here to talk to the independent panel and push for better communication" between management, staff and patients."

● Probed – Page 16

£10,000 to spend penny

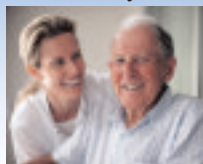
A COMPOST toilet costing £10,000 will be officially opened on a Halesowen allotment by the mayor and mayors of Dudley.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram and his wife Michell will unveil the environmentally-friendly public loo on the Bundle Hill allotments on May 12.

The project was carried out by a local contractor and has been funded by lottery money and donations.

Alan Harvey, chairman of the Bundle Hill Allotment Association, said it would promote green living, adding: "It needs no mains water or sewage connection."

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Tories set for review

But deputy leader Councillor Tim Wright is being replaced by adult social care spokesman Councillor David Vickers as part of a shake-up. Councillor Vickers is retaining his role looking after social care issues.

£22.000 shared

SOCIAL enterprises in the Black Country have been given a share of a £22,000 funding pot. Dudley Council has provided the cash from its community innovation and enterprise fund. The money has gone to Woodside Crafts, Base Creative Arts and Media, Hub Stourbridge and the Black Country Tool Bank.

Fears parking fees rise will finish off centres

Students hit right note at festival



Pupil Tom Baker with Sophia Holden, Dan Price, Phoebe Siviter and Alex Arenare

Miss Sarah Allen, defending Partridge, described him as 'mortified' following the incident, on January 9.

Scrapping

Councillor Foster said: "We have always kept parking charges on borough car parks to a very competitive rate in comparison with other authorities and even with this small increase, Dudley car parks remain among the cheapest to use in the region."

Alan Caswell, who owns the Arcade Toy Shop, in the Fountain Arcade, off Dudley High Street, said: "It is not the right move when they need to fill the empty shops and the market stalls."

Saxophonist Gemma Price was also awarded an outstanding soloist prize.

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Move has created new jobs

A TOOLMAKERS is to take on up to 20 more staff after moving to new premises in Lye.

SRS Precision Engineering bought Redditch toolmaker Harper & Simmons in January.

The operation has now been moved from the Worcestershire town to the Old Forge Trading Estate where it will operate as SRS.

The manufacturer, which employs 13, has moved in to a 12,000 sq ft unit and is already recruiting for the new jobs.

The specialist manufacturers and refurbishes tools mainly for the automotive, white goods and aerospace industries and will service customers across the Midlands and nationally.

SRS chairman Steve Hayes said: "We decided to relocate the SRS business to establish a new, high quality operating base.

"This gives us a professional and cost effective platform to service our customer base and re-energise this Midlands-based, former family business."

Lye's commercial property group Folkes Holdings fast-forwarded a lease arrangement in two weeks in order to meet SRS's relocation targets.

Step toward new centre

THE multi-million pound redevelopment of Dudley's town centre has taken a step forward with the council approving funding to kick-start the project.

The scheme, which hopes to boost trade and encourage new shoppers, will cost £6.7m but officials are awaiting the result of an application for £2.6 million of European cash towards it.

The scheme will see an upgraded market, new paving, lighting and street furniture and the reinstatement of the town's historic fountain and new market stalls with canopies.

Yeltz raise cash

MEMBERS of Halesowen Town's supporters' group, The Yeltz Trust, staged events to help raise £500 for a children's residential centre. Cash raised at events, including the trust's fun day, has been donated to staff at Sunfield Children's Home in Clent, near Stourbridge. The home, off Woodman Lane, provides care to young people.

Animal cruelty case figures up, says RSPCA

MORE than 110 convictions for animal neglect and cruelty were reported in the West Midlands and Staffordshire last year, new figures show.

It comes as the RSPCA says across England and Wales the number of cases rose by a third.

Across the West Midlands, the number of prosecutions rocketed from 67 in 2011 to 98 last year, while there was a 33 per cent increase up from 3,114 to 4,168 nationally, the organisation's annual prosecutions document found.

There was also a 15 per cent increase in the number of defendants convicted. In

Staffordshire, there were 14 prosecutions in each of the last two years, the figures revealed.

Cases in the West Midlands in recent months include that of Bloxwich couple Dean Ball and Gemma Elson, of Church Street, who neglected their two female Staffordshire bull terriers.

Ball, aged 24, and Elson, 23, are due to be sentenced on May 7 after they each admitted a charge of causing unnecessary suffering to the black and white dog by failing to act to address the animal's weight loss.

Meanwhile in March, Stuart Ellis, aged 47, of Pagham Close, Pendeford, was given a

five-week curfew after he admitted kicking a cockerel six times, slamming it to the floor and then dumping it in a bin.

Across the country the number of those found guilty of offences rose to 1,552 in 2012 from 1,341 a year earlier, the report – which was released to mark RSPCA Week – revealed.

RSPCA chief executive Gavin Grant called on judges to take these offences 'far more seriously'.

He said his staff, volunteers and branches are 'struggling to keep up' in their fight against 'a growing animal cruelty crisis'.

"For us, prosecution is always the last

resort," he said. "Our inspectors investigated 150,833 suspected cruelty cases and issued 78,090 advice notices last year. However, if there is evidence of a crime and serious animal abuse then we will take legal action to protect the animals and prevent further abuse. We also want to see judges taking these offences far more seriously."

Successful prosecutions relating to cruelty to small mammals such as rabbits and hamsters rose from 97 in 2011 to 354 in 2012.

Meanwhile, convictions linked to the treatment of farm animals rose from 22 to 49 in the same period.

My long and painful road to recovery after robbery

A FRUIT merchant – badly hurt after being dragged along while trying to stop a thief taking his car – says he now faces a long, painstaking journey to full recovery.

Stuart Timmins has been told by doctors he will not be able to walk for six months after being discharged from hospital following a second operation on his leg. The 48-year-old suffered a complex fracture of his lower leg as he attempted to stop a man stealing his Mitsubishi car and trailer from William Timmins' and Sons yard in Bird Street, Lower Gornal, on March 25.

As his car was driven away, Mr Timmins chased it and then clung on to the driver's door as it accelerated before eventually letting go after about 300 yards.

Mr Timmins, who lives in Himley Road, Gornal Wood, said he felt like a trapped animal and could not wait to return to his normal, active life.

Evening

He said: "It sounds sad but every day I am looking forward to the evening because I can go to bed and sleep and that is one step closer to recovery."

Mr Timmins is working hard to continue his business while fitting in regular visits to the hospital for check-ups.

His firm collects fruit and potatoes from farmers' markets and then delivers them to firms such as Dudley Zoo and care homes.

Mr Timmins said: "I've

by Alex Ross

now got a cast on my leg with pins and plates fitted inside – they say I may be walking again in six months.

"I cannot wait to get out and about again."

Mr Timmins has applied for compensation through the justice system to help him through the injury recovery.

The red and silver Mitsubishi LT 200 vehicle, which has an Artel Motor Sport sticker on its back, has not been seen since the theft.

The trailer was left dumped at Gornal Crematorium the day after the theft – but was then stolen again the following day.

A 30-year-old man was arrested and charged with with theft of a motor vehicle, wounding, robbery and driving while disqualified on April 15.

He appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court, but the case was sent to Wolverhampton Crown Court where he will appear for a hearing in July.



Stuart Timmins, aged 48, of Himley Road, Dudley, who is recovering from a broken ankle after he was dragged along the road while trying to stop his car being stolen from his business in Bird St, Lower Gornal

BT chief's broadband vow

A FORMER Midlands schoolboy has become the new regional director for British Telecom for the West Midlands region. Mike Cook, originally from Stourport promised that superfast broadband would play a vital role in the future success of the West Midlands, where the company employs around 6,500 people. "We have already announced plans to make the technology available to more than 1.7 million homes and businesses in the region."

New technology classes offered to carers

AGE UK Dudley is offering IT sessions specifically for carers of people with a long-term illness or disability.

There will be a five-week beginners IT course exclusive to carers from May 13 to June 24 at Netherton Activity Centre. Staff are also offering individual workshops to help

people get to grips with new technologies.

These include topics such as Skype and video calls on July 1 and an introduction to e-books on your computer & Kindles on July 8.

Other workshops available are an introduction to iPads on July 15, an

introduction to apps on July 22 and finally an Introduction to Windows 8 on July 29.

The courses are being run thanks to a carers grant from Dudley Council. All sessions run from 1pm-3pm. Call the Springboard Team on 01384 354651.

NEWS in brief

Battle to be new Labour candidate

A JOURNALIST, originally from Dudley, wants to be Labour's candidate for Stourbridge at the next General Election.

Warren Nettleford wants the party to select him as it tries to unseat Conservative MP Margot James. The 31-year-old has been a reporter for BBC London News for the past five years and is a former pupil of Bishop Milner Catholic School, Dudley.

He faces a challenge from Dudley Council finance boss Councillor Pete Lowe. A vote will take place on July 6.

Top sitar player in city concert

ONE of the UK Indian music scene's top sitar players will perform in Wolverhampton this month.

Roopa Panesar will play at the Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton on May 18.

Since learning to play aged seven she has performed worldwide.

Tickets are £9 or £7 concessions and can be bought at the Theatre box office in Wulfruna Street, or 01902 321321 or at www.arenatheatre.info.

Marston's hand cash to hospice

A CHEQUE for more than £1,200 has been presented to Acorns Children's Hospice by the Marston's Employees Charity Fund.

The presentation took place at Marston's Park Brewery in Wolverhampton and was made by Ken Blood and Malcolm Trend, who are both retired employees and founder trustees of the fund.

The donation was the latest in 33 years of fundraising by the brewers.

Cat show to hold championship

THE Midland Counties Cat Club will hold its annual championship show on May 12 at Aldersley Leisure Village, in Wolverhampton, from 12.30pm to 4.30pm.

Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. For booking and details call on 01355 324 690.

Tracing family

THE Black Country coroner's office is trying to trace any family of a man who has died. William Price, aged 41, of Walsall, died on April 18. Call Elaine Huckfield on 0845 352 7491 with any information.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WINSTON Churchill's face will appear on the next £5 note. His finest hour was in 1940. So guess how much £5 back then is worth today. The Bank of England's online currency calculator says that in order to buy goods and services that cost £5 in 1940 you'd need £237.02 today. It's fascinating but also depressing.

□□□□□□□□

EDWARD VIII'S Murderous Mistress (C4) told the tale of Princess Fahmy Bey who was acquitted of murdering her husband, probably because she had kept love letters from the Prince of Wales and the authorities couldn't risk them being read out in court. In our time, when tweets and emails are deleted in their millions, it is hard to imagine how damning a single hand-written document can be. As the great Mae West put it: "Keep a diary and one day it will keep you."

□□□□□□□□

OUR changing language. After the discovery of a severed human ear at a cemetery in Buckinghamshire, police said they would investigate if the ear proved to be "current rather than historic." I couldn't believe my currents.

□□□□□□□□

HERE'S a cunning plan to solve the Abu Qatada dilemma of how to get the rabid cleric out of the UK and back to Jordan without the human-rights brigade intervening. My thanks go to Eric Pickles, the local government minister who last week called for the reinstatement of England's old county names. My cunning plan is for Parliament to pass the County Names (Reinstatement) Act 2013 which recreates the counties of Westmorland, Cumberland, Huntingdonshire and Jordanshire. The next day Qatada is put on a plane to Jordanshire which would be officially part of England. The day after that, Downing Street admits there has been a terrible mistake. It appears that Jordanshire, far from being an ancient English county, is actually a kingdom in the Middle East. The Act is repealed and everyone is happy. Except Abu Qatada.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Zoo to be a beacon for new tourism campaign

DUDLEY Zoo has been hailed as a beacon for other attractions to follow by tourism bosses.

They plan to use it at the forefront of a new campaign to encourage families to holiday at home. VisitEngland chairman Lady Cobham of Hagley Hall, and chief executive James Berresford were shown the recent developments at the 40-acre site, including the reopened chair lift and new offices.

They picked the attraction to visit above 15 others in the West Midlands ahead of a meeting with local tourism leaders to discuss the body's Holidays at Home are Great campaign, due to be launched today.

The £4million nationwide initiative aims to encourage attractions to work closer together to develop regional package holidays which families can buy at their travel agent.

Mr Berresford said: "We see Dudley Zoo as a real example which other attractions across the country can follow. "It is an excellent attraction which has improved vastly over recent years due to thoughtful investment and good management."

"Holding on to its historic buildings and structures, the zoo has still managed to improve the environment for its animals and visitors - it does this fantastically well."

He added: "We want to use the zoo as part of a new campaign we will be running to promote holidaying in this

by Alex Ross

country." Lady Cobham said: "We look to sell the West Midlands as a package - bring attractions together in an area so people don't just come in and out for a visit, but stay for a few days, providing a boost to the local economy."

"If we can get a family to the zoo and say stay another day and do the Sea Life in Birmingham while staying at the new Premier Inn in Dudley, that would be a success."

They were guided around the attraction by chief executive Peter Suddock and zoo trustees where they rode on the chairlift before being shown the African spotted Eagle Owl, the attraction's two tigers and the Humboldt penguins.

Mr Suddock said: "We are delighted to welcome Lady Cobham and Mr Berresford to Dudley Zoo."

"These are exciting times and we are pleased to have an opportunity to share them with VisitEngland."



Lady Cobham, Chairman of VisitEngland and team leader of birds Kellie Piper from Tewkesbury with an African Spotted Eagle Owl called Kaiser



From left VisitEngland chief executive James Berresford, Lady Cobham with a Rothschild giraffe, assistant curator Rich Brown and zoo chief executive Peter Suddock

Lights at junction have been upgraded

TRAFFIC signals at a busy junction in Dudley have been upgraded following concerns they were not easing traffic along a major route through the borough.

Lights at the Burnt Tree junction in Dudley are now operated from a control centre and can be changed according to traffic flow.

The upgrade was implemented after council leader Councillor David Sparks described the lights situation as 'scandalous'.

He said the junction was being undermined by a separate turn-off to the Tesco Extra supermarket, and too much priority was being given to shoppers heading out of the store car park. The four-way traffic light-controlled junction was opened two years at a cost of £12.3million replacing a major roundabout.

Dudley Council's transport boss, Councillor Judy Foster, said the signals timings can be altered by operators at a control centre.

12,000 jobs joy

TWELVE thousand jobs will be created by the expansion of Premier Inn and Costa Coffee over the next five years, owner Whitbread announced. Turnover for the restaurant and hotels group topped £2 billion in the year to the end of February. It plans to grow Premier Inn UK by 45 per cent.

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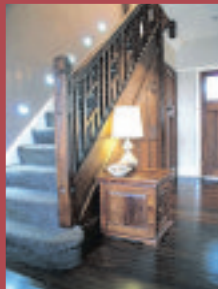
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Efforts to give jobs increased

DUDLEY health chiefs are stepping up efforts to vaccinate children in the wake of the measles outbreak in South Wales.

The last case of measles in the borough was in 2011 but invitations have been sent to children in Dudley who have not yet been vaccinated against the disease.

It comes after a £20 million national campaign was launched to get more than a million children and teenagers vaccinated for MMR amid growing numbers of cases in parts of the UK including Swansea, where more than 1,000 people have had the disease.

Health chiefs in the West Midlands are working on plans to offer the vaccination to youngsters between the ages of 10 and 16 who have not had it or those who are only partially vaccinated. Parents are expected to be contacted within the next few months.

Experts believe the increase in measles cases can be mostly attributed to the proportion of unprotected 10 to 16-year-olds who missed out on vaccination in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Argos sales grow

ARGOS sales have grown for the first time in five years as the catalogue retailer revealed plans to beef up online trading. Operating profits were up by six per cent as sales rose by 2.1 per cent following an 8.9 per cent drop in the previous year.

£100,000 cannabis farmer looks likely to be deported

A MAN found running a £100,000-a-year cannabis farm at a house in Smethwick has been locked up for 18 months.

Illegal immigrant Chu Trung had only been at the address for ten days when police swooped, a judge heard. The 19-year-old Vietnamese had been smuggled into the country on a lorry before being taken to a Birmingham night club where he met the 'boss' who put him in a taxi that took him to the property in Rosehill Road, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Trung was shown how to cultivate the 80 cannabis plants growing in the loft and then left to fend for himself at the house that had little furniture and a small amount of food in the kitchen, explained Miss Samantha Powis, prosecuting.

Work on £6m archives is nearing end

WORK on the new £6 million archives centre in Dudley is nearing completion, with the project ahead of schedule, bosses said.

External cladding and windows have been installed at the building near the Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road.

Work is under way on some of the internal fittings at the centre, which will house IT and public wi-fi services, education and conference rooms, a rare-book library and a research area.

Dudley Council's archives service will relocate from its existing building, in Mount Pleasant, Coleley, to the new site which is on track to open this July.

When the new building opens, it will also be used to store documents for neighbouring Sandwell Council.

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, said: "Work is progressing very well, and we are moving ahead of schedule. "It's really starting to take shape."

The drug farm would have produced a crop worth £36,000 in street sales but had a potential annual yield of £108,000 with three harvests a year, concluded the lawyer.

Police found the cannabis while making house-to-house inquiries in the street where people had complained of a strange smell, the court heard.

Village

Officers said the defendant appeared relieved when arrested.

His family had remortgaged their home in Vietnam to pay \$20,000 US after 'recruiters' came to the village offering to find legitimate work for young men in the UK, claimed Mr Shiva Misra, defending.

"He has been exploited by others," he added.

Trung of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to cultivating cannabis and was ordered to be detained in a Young Offenders' Institution by Judge John Warner who told him: "There was a lot of money to be made from this but I accept the money would have gone to those who seldom appear in the courts but trade on people like you." Trung has applied for political asylum in this country but is likely to be deported after his sentence.

Dean is half the man he was



Slimming World's Greatest Loser 2013, Dean Worrall, 36, from Stourbridge, lost 17 stone

SUPER-slimmer Dean Worrall once tipped the scales at 33-stone after gorging on 18-inch pizzas, tubs of ice cream and full English breakfasts.

But after a three-year diet the 36-year-old from Dudley really is half the man he used to be - having slimmed to 16st 6lb to be named Slimming World's Greatest Loser of 2013. Mr Worrall, from Stourbridge, has lost a staggering 17st. He decided to slim down after he was made redundant from his electrician job.

After saying he was stared at in the street and being embarrassed when he could not fit into chairs at job interviews, he decided it was time to kick his unhealthy lifestyle into touch.

He said he had even asked an interviewer for a different chair because the one provided was not big enough.

The electrician got back into work shortly after starting sessions with a Slimming World class in Brierley Hill.

At his biggest 6ft 4ins Mr Worrall had expanded to a size 6XL, with a 68in waist, and could only fit into clothes he bought from specialist websites.

NEWS in brief

School is taking a break for charity

STUDENTS and staff at a Stourbridge school have devoted a whole week for fundraising activities in their breaks and lunch times.

Pedmore Technology College and Community School is raising money for Sunfield special school in Clent.

Fundraising activities got under way last week with a video juke box game, cake sales, tombolas, an ice cream and milkshake stall, lucky dips and a raffle.

Two male teachers have also agreed to raise funds with a public body wax.

New plan aiming to tackle obesity

A NEW five-year plan has been launched aimed at tackling obesity in children and adults in Dudley after it emerged 15,000 youngsters were overweight.

It comes as Dudley Council takes over public health planning in the borough from primary care trusts abolished last month.

Age groups targeted include reception age children and year six pupils. The plans will also look at obesity rates in adults.

Relatives search

RELATIVES are looking for Tamara Lea, who lived in Merriale, Wolverhampton about 20 years ago, in connection with a will. Anyone with information can call her uncle John Price on 07999 774597.

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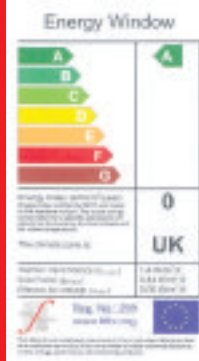
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NEWS

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

WHILE the politicians blather on about last week's county elections, and the analysts rake over what the South Shields by-election means for the rest of the country, I fear the real message that the voters delivered has been lost.

□□□□□□

UKIP say the election results are proof that the party is a serious political force. Labour says it shows people are sick of the Coalition.

But amid all the party-political bickering, one thing seems to have escaped everybody's attention: doesn't Emma Lewell-Buck, the winning Labour candidate in South Shields, look just like Olive out of On The Buses?

The signal this should send out to our party leaders could not be more clear. We want fewer bland, soundalike politicians chosen by the focus groups, and more characters from 1970s sitcoms.

Terry Scott, for example, would be wonderful as a slightly off-message, provincial Tory MP. Arkwright out of Open All Hours would be great at keeping a tight rein on the nation's purse strings. And Gordon Thorpe, the formidable consultant played by Richard Wilson in Only When I Laugh, would be a shoo-in as Health Secretary.

Rigsby out of Rising Damp could be housing minister, and the daughter out of Bless This House would probably take care of the youth vote.

Education would be a hard brief to fill, but maybe the battleaxe college principal in Mind Your Language might have something to offer.

There are difficulties with this plan, including the fact that half of these people died many years ago. But you've got to admit, if the Government is looking for a 'plan B', it's more credible than anything that has come out of Westminster lately.

□□□□□□

AFTER decades dithering about the impending energy crisis, it seems our leaders in Brussels have finally come up with a solution.

In future, all fridges could be fitted with a microchip which switches them off by remote control when the National Grid is struggling to cope.

What a wonderful idea. Why did nobody think of it earlier?

It is 75 years this summer since Mallard, the achingly beautiful steam locomotive, broke the world speed record, achieving 126mph – still 1mph faster than today's express trains. Before that, the great 19th-century engineers brought us radio, the gramophone and the incandescent light bulb.

In 2013 we have invented a new way of creating power cuts. Makes you proud, doesn't it?



A still from the lost film of Pan's People gyrating on Top of the Pops



The troupe set the pulses racing of a generation of pop music fans in the 70s

Lost film is found to get Pan's People back in step

The famous Top of the Pops dance troupe are to set pulses racing again as
ANDREW TURTON reports

THEY once gyrated and shimied to the best chart-topping hits of the day on Top of the Pops, getting pulses racing for a generation of music fans.

But footage of well-known dance troupe Pan's People taking a starring role on the flagship music programme was thought lost forever.

But television researchers – with the help of a well-known record producer – have stumbled across tapes which they will reveal to the world again in a special showcase in June.

The Pan's People dancers starring Wolverhampton-born Barbara Lord known as Babs, among their line-up were staples of the show during its heyday.

Members of Stourbridge-based group Kaleidoscope, who champion classic television, were alerted to a collection of tapes owned by Ian Levine.

Revealed

Mr Levine, who mixed a number of dance-pop hits artists including Pet Shop Boys, Erasure and Kim Wilde, uncovered the tapes in his private collection at his London home.

A dozen sorely missed Pan's People performances to hits by pop stars including T.Rex, Barry White, Elton John, The Jackson 5 and Diana Ross, are revealed in the films on original VCR tapes.

The rare clips, dating from between 1973 and 1975 feature Pan's People dancing to hits such as Truck On Tyke by T.Rex, I'll Do Anything You Want Me To by Barry White, Island Girl by Elton John, I Want You Back by Jackson 5 and All Of My Life by Diana Ross.

Other significant finds include dance routines to Dance With The Devil by legendary rock drummer Cozy Powell, You



Pan's People in their heyday. Sadly two of the founders are dead

Ain't Seen Nothing Yet by Bachman Turner Overdrive, and Rhythm and Blue Jean Baby by Lynsey De Paul.

Kaleidoscope founder Chris Perry, who started the group with friends from King Edward VI College in Stourbridge 25 years ago, said: "This is a major find of missing Pan's People performances in great condition not held by the BBC, Pan's People or anyone else."

"I've recorded the clips off the TV back in the 1970s using an early video recorder, and the tapes had sat unused

on his shelf until donated to Kaleidoscope last year.

"We've received a huge haul of 20,000 tapes from Ian which we are cataloguing. We've also recently come across an almost complete Top of the Pops missing from the archives from 1976, so who knows what else is waiting to be found."

The group plans to showcase the footage at a screening at Stourbridge's The Talbot Hotel, in High Street, on June 1 starting at 12pm.

One of the Pan's People dancers, Patricia Wilde, says she hopes to attend the screening and said it would be an "exciting if poignant experience" watching the clips since co-founders Felicity Flick Colby and Louise Clarke have both died in the last two years.

She said: "Considering that Pan's People danced on Top of the Pops week in, week out, for so many years, it's such a pity that most of our routines have been lost, wiped by the BBC back in the 70s."

"To hear that some of them have now been recovered thanks to a collector recording them himself and keeping the tapes all these years, really is wonderful. Often we never even saw them go out as we were so busy."

"I can't wait to see them again and it's just so sad that neither Flick nor Louise are with us to enjoy their rediscovery too."

Former Top of the Pops cameraman John Henshall, who regularly filmed Pan's People performances back in the early 1970s, added: "All in all, this is a remarkable collection that manages to capture all the excitement and energy that made Top Of The Pops the greatest music show on television."

Electric

"Watching Pan's People dance to the T.Rex hit Truck On Tyke, for example, is such a treat as no footage exists anywhere in the world of that particular Marc Bolan song, while they look like five sexy dream-catchers with feathers hanging from their waists in an electric performance alongside Cozy Powell."

Pan's People first appeared on Top of the Pops in 1968 and also appeared on other shows of the era including Lulu, The John Denver Show and The Two Ronnies.

Their last Top of the Pops appearance was in April 1976, dancing to Silver Star by The Four Seasons but the troupe remained popular after leaving. During this period Sarah Brightman, who later married composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, was briefly a member.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Labour council pledged to outlaw a sky-high overtime payments system which allowed a workman to earn £715 in one week. The move came to counter protests from opposition councillors over the hefty pay packet.

A TOTAL of 150 council workmen went on strike in Dudley after five drain workers were told to wash in a bucket before eating lunch. The workers were suspended for disobeying new orders to stay on site for their lunch break. Colleagues walked out in support.

FEMALE mud wrestlers wiped out their male opponents in a fundraising fracas at the Dudley Rag Fete. The six students lived up to their nicknames like Calamity Kay and Crusher Kris and earned 50p for every male challenger they demolished.

1993...

DUDLEY Council prepared for a major shake-up after the loss of 500 jobs as part of a £17.5 million cuts package. A spokesman said the council expected to deliver the same services despite a reduced workforce.

LIGHTNING caused thousands of pounds worth of damage at a vineyard near Wolverhampton. Staff narrowly escaped injury after posts were uprooted and a wall demolished during a freak storm at the Halfpenny Green Vineyard in Bobbington.

A STAFFORDSHIRE paintball company took over a former wartime munitions depot near Wolverhampton. BPS Leisure Pursuits Ltd, based in Bednal acquired site in Featherstone, complete with 60 Second World War buildings, air raid shelters and bunkers.

2003...

WORK on building an extra platform to ease congestion at Wolverhampton railway station was delayed for almost a year due to problems with the design. Planned work on a fourth through-platform was put back until October 2004 while designers tried to solve passenger access issues.

THE Black Country accent fascinated a Danish student so much that he dedicated his degree to the region's dialect. Soren Andersen swotted up on terms like "bostin" in order to teach his classmates how to "spake proper".

AROUND 9,000 green bins were wheeled out in Wolverhampton to allow gardeners to get rid of waste in kerbside collections. Homes in Tettenhall, Penn Fields, Claregate, Penn and Pendeford benefited.

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LETTERS

Reset the clock over prisoners

IT'S time to get tough on prisoners, thunders Justice Secretary Chris Grayling, we must make prison a punishment and not, as it is now, like a leisurely few weeks in a luxurious country club.

His opening salvo in this war against the prison population, many of whom are hardened career criminals is to ensure they must spend the first two weeks of their sentence wearing regulation prison issue uniform, shock, Horror!

I can imagine the toughest of miscreants standing shaking in the dock as they await the verdict of the Judiciary,

which now will include the wearing of prison uniform for a couple of weeks, that will show them whose boss.

Television sets will no longer be automatic entitlements, but must be earned, quite how is not made clear, but I can only assume that if they are good little prisoners for a few weeks they will get their privileges back, including the use of top of the range gymnasium facilities thereby ensuring that on release those who wish to carry on the furtherance of their criminal careers are far fitter than the average bobby who will inevitably at some stage end up chasing them. If Mr Grayling is seriously con-

sidering ways to make a prison term more formidable to the criminal, then I suggest that he winds the clock back a few years, not so far back as to return to the old bread and water days, but to a time when prison was a little less comfortable than it is at the present time, good plain nourishing food and a little more strenuous work than they have to undertake at the moment, no TV sets at all never mind adult rated DVDs. and definitely, as has been reported, no booze or drugs.

MR B PARSONS
Coseley

Sadness at the death of anti-fascist vicar Tony

IT is a great sadness to hear of the death of Rev Tony Attwood.

Whilst Minister for Top Church in Dudley, Rev Attwood not only served his congregation, but also played an important role for the people of Dudley, regardless of their religious background.

Tony was a committed anti-racist and actively opposed those political forces that sought to create racial or religious division and hatred.

He shared many a platform with Unite Against Fascism whilst campaigning against the BNP. When the EDL held violent demonstrations in Dudley, Tony was amongst the first to oppose them.

CLL R. PETELOWE, LYE
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TONY BARNESLEY,
Cherry Tree Lane,

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Empty words from the caring services

Mr Polychronakis, the chairman of Dudley's children safeguarding board in the case of Keidy Ellese Earp, said: "I would like to express our sadness at the tragic death of this young child and offer our condolences to the family". Such empty words.

Every time a child dies, we always get the same words, lessons have been learned. There have been so many lessons learned, yet no one seems to remember them. This child of 18 months had been monitored for nearly half her life by social services. Sixty recommendations have now been drawn up, after her death. Why weren't these recommendations already in place. This has happened many, many times throughout the country, yet nothing has been learned. Two social services, Sandwell and Dudley spent months "wringing" over who should look after her, did it matter?

Now Sandwell and Dudley are busy arguing over who is to blame, all of them. If these council officers cannot do their job, why do we employ them? I am sorry to say, it will happen again, because they never learn by their mistakes.

NORMAN D CADDICK
Coseley

Michael was on the Ball with his show

ONCE again Michael Ball rocked Birmingham with his fantastic concert at The Symphony Hall, Birmingham on Saturday April 27.

In these days of doom and gloom it was an absolute joy to be treated to an evening of pure entertainment by such a brilliant performer as Michael.

Not only did we get the expected - and brilliantly performed - songs from the musicals but he also raised the roof with contemporary songs that you wouldn't perhaps have expected him to sing, showing incredible versatility. Michael is one of those singers who has a special way of connecting with his audience and by the end of the evening we were all up in our seats and dancing in the aisles. An absolutely wonderful concert and a thoroughly enjoyable evening all round.

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NEWS

Not posh enough claim refuted on TA unit axing

THE Ministry of Defence has hit back at claims a Dudley Territorial Army unit could be axed because it is not 'posh enough'.

The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry (RMLY), which has a base at Dudley's Vicar Street, is understood to be facing disbandment to make way for a Scottish Yeomanry.

This comes despite the regiment's recent success proving the Midlands is one of the army's most fruitful recruiting grounds.

An anonymous source at the RMLY had said the regiment had been singled out for not being 'posh enough' because it recruits from 'unglamorous' areas such as the Black Country.

Responding to the claims, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "It is completely inaccurate to suggest that the regiment would be closed for this reason."

"The MoD is growing the trained strength of the Territorial Army to 30,000 by 2018 as we reshape the armed forces and work is ongoing to ensure the best possible structure and basing plan for this."

"No decision have yet been made but the final plans will be based on military needs, make the best use of the existing defence estate and achieve the best value for money for the taxpayer."

She added any decision on the regiment's future would be announced later this year but was unable to give a date for this.

Among those who have spoken out against the plans is Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who took the debate to Parliament recently.

Fighters besiege castle



More than 100 martial arts students took over Dudley Castle courtyard to celebrate their club's 10th anniversary

MORE than 100 karate students from across the Midlands brought their karate skills to Dudley Castle to mark an anniversary.

The pupils, aged between five and 80, are from Go-Kan-Ryu Karate (GKR), which runs 25 classes across the Midlands.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the club the students took part in a two-hour training session in the courtyard of the 11th century castle in the heart of Dudley Zoo's grounds.

Senior regional instructor Daniel Eastman said: "We've been working towards this date for a long time and we had a fantastic morning."

"It was amazing to see so many students going through their exercises in the courtyard, which is such a fabulous setting."

Following training, students and their families enjoyed a picnic before touring the 40-acre site. GKR is a traditional Japanese style of karate taught in a non-contact environment.

The GKR promotes self-defence, fitness, co-ordination, discipline, confidence and stress relief.

Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said: "The students took over the whole courtyard for a massive martial arts training session. "It was impressive to see."

Crossing petition sent in

A 500-NAME petition calling for tougher measures along a busy road where motorists are failing to stop at a zebra crossing has been handed to Dudley Council. Residents have launched a campaign calling for action along Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, amid fears drivers are putting lives at risk by not stopping for pedestrians to cross.

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NEWS



Josh Morris recovers from the ordeal with dog Chunk and his girlfriend Lauren Blake and friend Ben Fellows

Reservoir dog rescue man feared he was dead

DUDLEY dog lover Josh Morris said he thought he was dead after plunging into a reservoir to rescue his Staffordshire bull terrier Chunk.

The 20-year-old ended up having to be rescued as he twice disappeared beneath the surface, weighed down by his drenched clothes and shoes. Josh had jumped into into Netherton's Lodge Farm Reservoir, fearing for the life of his pet dog Chunk, who he described as his baby.

A local yacht club saved the day.

Back home in Netherton - and with 18-month-old Chunk by his side - Josh said when he went under the water after struggling, "I thought I was dead".

Chunk had been off her lead enjoying the group's regular walking haunt at the reservoir about 4pm on April 28, when she jumped in to swim to a buoy, which was in 14ft deep water.

Chunk, who has been weak since she broke her leg at six-months, appeared to be struggling so Mr Morris jumped in, but the pet managed to swim back to shore. Josh's pal, Ben Fellows swam out to help, but got into difficulty. Eventually, Josh was

by Sharon Marris

rescued when Bryn Watkins, the commodore of Dudley Sailing Club, was alerted to the drama, before driving out to Josh in a motorised boat.

He was taken to hospital where he was treated for hypothermia. "The man in the boat and Ben saved my life," he said.

But finally a member of the local yacht club saved the day when he drove a powered boat out to pluck him from the water with 'super human' strength.

The whole drama was caught by keen wildlife photographer Chris Mason, who was out taking pictures of birds on the reservoir when he spotted a commotion on the opposite bank.

Mr Mason, a 27-year-old of Netherton, alerted the sailing club after Mr Morris got into difficulty.



Worried friends watch Josh dicing with death as he swims out to try to save his dog



Dudley Sailing Club commodore Bryn Watkins bringing Josh to safety after rescuing him from the water

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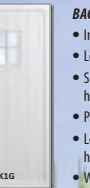
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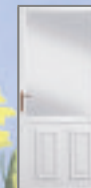


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MEMORY LANE



All quiet... just one car in Dawson Street on a normal day, with Molineux Street across the bottom



No room to park... Dawson Street on a match day when it was crowded with the cars of supporters

Ancient route that led to Molineux



An aerial view of Molineux in the 1950s with Molineux Street running alongside to the left of the stadium

MANY of the towns and cities of Britain have football grounds which have grown surrounded by streets of terraced houses.

And Wolverhampton is no different, though many of the streets have disappeared, not least the one carrying the name of the stadium, Molineux Street.

Molineux Street was actually an ancient route, which used to be called Dunstall Lane, falling away down the hill from North Street, which used to be called Tup Street, a top being a sheep.

Sheep would commonly have been driven to market in the town, from the north.

Dunstall Lane meandered towards Dunstall Hall, and formed the eastern boundary of the eight acre garden of a house built at the top of the hill by a man called John Rotton.

Happily, when Rotton died in 1743, the house passed into the possession of a local iron master named John Molineux, in payment

By Alec Brew

of a debt. I say happily, because otherwise the house might have continued to be called Rotton House, and the subsequent stadium built on the site might also have been Rotton Stadium, though Wolves supporters might well believe that to be an apt description of late.

The house later became a hotel, with the gardens becoming Wolverhampton's de facto first park.

Grew

Molineux Grounds became the home of assorted sporting events, including bowls, cycle racing, and eventually football.

The Molineux family had sold the house because it began to be hemmed in on all sides by rows of terraced houses, rather spoiling the fine vistas.

As the stadium grew, Dunstall Lane acquired the new name Molineux Street, and the eastern stand backed right on to the pavement with Vincent Street, Dawson Street, Birch Street and Red Cross Street running away from it an

right angles.

Supporters heading for the Molineux Street Stand or the North Bank tramped down the hill, and queued right on the pavement.

From the 50s onwards the tall floodlight pylons bathed the whole district in light during evening matches.

Constricted as it was, with Waterloo Road right by the other side of the ground, the Wolves' directors began to buy up houses on the other side of Molineux Street when they became available.

Eventually they were able to build the new John Ireland Stand (as it then was) behind the old stand, right on top of Molineux Street and the site of those houses.

The rest of the terraced houses were also cleared away and this now forms the site of the Asda supermarket, so that Molineux Street was not the only one which disappeared for ever.

● **Photographs:** Billy Howe's website *Lost Wolverhampton* at www.lostwolverhampton.co.uk



Molineux Street before the stadium was built



Looking down Molineux Street, with the cobbler's shop at the top, and Molineux Street stand to the left

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NEWS

Mother's van terror



Sam Lee, of Sedgley, with her daughter Charley Foster, aged five, who were victims of a car-jacking attempt

A DUDLEY mother has told of the moment two would-be carjackers attacked her van as her five-year-old daughter slept in the passenger seat.

Baseball cap-wearing thugs pounced on Sam Lee, of Sedgley, as she pulled up at traffic lights in Parkfields, Wolverhampton. In an unprovoked attack on April 26, Miss Lee, 40, was left cowering in her vehicle as the vandals attacked, pulling the handles and kicking the back doors. Miss Lee, who spoke out in the hope that the crooks will be captured, said: "There was a Renault Clio driving in front of me. It was going so slow at times my van nearly stopped. I pulled up at the lights at the junction with Parkfields, and the car in front sharply turned into the right-hand lane. Two white men got out, and they were wearing baseball caps and started kicking my van and pulling at the handles," she said.

"I never usually lock the doors while I'm driving but for some reason I had, and I'm lucky I did. It was rocking back and forth, and they seemed to go back to their car to grab something, but I sped off, nearly hitting oncoming traffic. I drove towards Bilston, and I pulled over and called 999.

"I was like jelly. I was shaking. It was horrendous. The 999 operator had to calm me down. I'm so lucky that they didn't get in because they could have drove off with my child." Police spokesman Lee Page said, there are limited descriptions of the attackers - two white men in their 20s - officers believe they got away in a silver Renault Clio.

Witnesses call Wolverhampton police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Rescue deal saves firm and creates more jobs

A MULTI-MILLION pound rescue deal put together by three entrepreneurs has saved 70 jobs, created more than a dozen more, and turned a loss-making Dudley engineering company into a success story.

by Simon Penfold

A phone call and a deadline saw businessmen Neil Higgitt, Mike Wright and Peter Hargreaves step in to save Quality Metal Products, a locker and workbench manufacturer in Lye. Mr Higgitt said: "Everything happened so quickly.

"The American owners contacted me and, after a meeting, made it clear that unless a deal could be done they were prepared to close the manufacturing plant within weeks.

"So our management team jumped into action to save this great manufacturer. We had just six weeks to bring the deal together. We have a great team, and with the help of Peter Waldron and Hannah Scott from Waldron Solicitors, and Mark Caulkin, the regional director from NatWest Bank, the deal was done within the six-week deadline."

Since sealing the deal last

summer, the three men have invested more in modernising and refurbishing the company's Timmins Road factory as well as recruiting a dozen new staff.

Two more are being sought to work in the 25,000 sq ft new warehouse area which is being fitted out.

Meanwhile, the company, which is understood to have been losing up to £80,000 a month before the takeover, is back in the black and notching up strong sales.

Neil Higgitt and Mike Wright had previously worked at QMP before leaving to take over Workplace Products in Aldridge, in 2004, with Peter Hargreaves.

Workplace Products is an industrial mail order catalogue company. Lawyer Peter Waldron said: "We were delighted to be part of the rescue plan."

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NEWS

Knife-wielding robber jailed for £11,000 raid

A MASKED robber armed with a knife who stole £11,000 from a shop has been jailed for seven years.

Terrified staff at the Spar in Rowley Regis were threatened with a screwdriver and a seven-inch knife when John Cleaver and another man robbed the shop.

One member of staff had a weapon held to his temple while the duo emptied the safe and the till during the raid at the Harvest Road store in November last year.

But Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Cleaver was identified through CCTV and when he was arrested, police discovered photographs of some of his associates posing with the £11,000 haul.

Prosecutor Mrs Amy Jackson said the robbery took place at about 7.20pm on November 16. She explained: "This defendant had a knife and jumped on the counter, shouting at a staff member to open the safe."

Mrs Jackson told the court that following the robbery, Cleaver, his accomplice and another man who was acting as a 'lookout' fled in a stolen car.

The prosecutor said 32-year-old Cleaver, of Queen Street, Pennsnett, had a string of convictions and had previously served a 10-year sentence for robbery and burglary. Mr John Roe, defending, said his client, who admitted robbery and possession of a knife, had been drinking and taking drugs on the night of the incident and that there had been no element of 'pre-planning'.

Frontline police safe vow

WEST Mercia Police's crime commissioner says he will protect officers despite plans to reduce staffing levels by more than 12 per cent over the next three years. Front-line policing will be retained at 2,025, according to the new Police and Crime Plan. The report, by commissioner Bill Longmore, shows backroom staff will be cut by 195.

Arson theory over barn



Firefighting crews tackle the huge fire in Ketley Road, Kingswinford, which destroyed a barn after a suspected arson attack

A BLAZE ripped through tons of straw and destroyed a barn in Dudley in a suspected arson attack.

More than 30 firefighters were called to tackle the flames at the farm building in Ketley Road, Kingswinford.

The cause of the fire at the barn, which housed farming vehicles and tractor tyres, is unknown but is being treated as suspicious. Crews from Brierley Hill, Cradley and Oldbury were dispatched to the scene at about 7.30pm on May 1 and spent the night dousing the flames. By about 10pm, a specialist unit to provide more light for firefighters at

the scene was requested. At 5am the next morning two fire crews were still at the scene, using a digger to remove the burning straw to a nearby field. The barn had been completely destroyed, he added.

Meanwhile, Crews from Tipton and Woodgate Valley had to be called in to deal with a fire in Amblecote, Stourbridge, just before 3am. An abandoned work unit on Platts Close caught alight with a large amount of rubbish inside.

The fire was between a brick building and an open-fronted bay loading area with an asbestos roof. The cause of the fire is unknown.

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People facing fines over dumping at recycle sites

RESIDENTS have been threatened with fines after council bosses claimed they were illegally dumping rubbish outside recycling bins across Dudley borough.

One person was fined over 'misuse' of recycling sites by throwing household rubbish up against recycling containers.

Enforcement signs have been put up at two sites so far including at The Cross, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, as part of the new crackdown.

Officials threatened fines and prosecution for people dumping waste incorrectly, littering bags of rubbish near bins or flytipping.

Dudley Council environment boss, Councillor Tracy Wood, said the signs were only intended as a reminder to resi-

dents. "Dudley borough residents value their local environment and know that rubbish and recycling collections are very important, which is why many highlighted it as a priority in the Big Question consultation," she said.

"I would like to thank the thousands of people who use our recycling sites conscientiously and would remind those who choose not to that we reserve the right to take action against them."

Nearly 50 recycling centres are sited around the borough giving people a place to leave recyclables such as newspapers and glass.

Some residents have claimed the recycling waste bins are full when they arrive.

Crackdown on rogues

FURTHER operations to clamp down on rogue traders in the Wyre Forest district will be staged by police after 100 vehicles were stopped in the latest initiative.

Officers joined forces with Wyre Forest District Council, HM Revenue and Customs, VOSA and Worcester-shire Regulatory Services to stage the four-hour operation recently.

Marked and unmarked police vehicles - some equipped with automatic number plate recognition equipment - intercepted vehicles and directed them to a test station where they were checked.

Following the success of the scheme, officers said further operations would

be held in the future. The operation focused on rogue traders - criminals posing as tradesmen who offer to carry out maintenance and work on homes.

Often the work is carried out to a poor standard with victims charged inflated prices or even asked to pay up front and the job is never completed.

The operation also targeted illegal scrap metal collectors. Police said one driver had been arrested for driving while disqualified and had his vehicle seized. A further three vehicles were seized due to having no insurance.

One driver was fined £580 as a result of using illegal red diesel in the vehicle. The fuel is for agricultural vehicles only. Two further drivers were reported for having driving document offences, one for not wearing a seatbelt

and another for using a mobile phone while driving.

Another did not have a valid tax disc. Four vehicles were prohibited for being overloaded while three others had insecure loads and another did not have an operator's licence. Seven more were found to have various mechanical defects. All these were not allowed to continue with their journeys until the problems had been fixed.

Information received on one vehicle believed to be used by a rogue trader was stopped and officers from Worcester-shire Regulatory Services are making further inquiries into the two occupants.

Pc Andy Wallace, of West Mercia Police, said: "We know from experience these operations are very effective."

Chance for volunteers

VOLUNTEERS with a love for Dudley will be able to put their talents to good use as the town centre is transformed, says the council.

People with local history knowledge can be part of an ambassador scheme and will act as the public face for the town centre.

At a cabinet meeting, Dudley Council approved proposals to fund its share of the £6.7 million Dudley Market Place public realm project on condition of a successful bid for European Regional Development Fund cash. The project would involve volunteers acting as a public face for the town.

Mayor takes to the crease in new nets



The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram giving the new nets a try out at Oldswinford Cricket Club

STOURBRIDGE cricket club are delighted after their new practice nets were officially opened by the Mayor of Dudley. A grant from the English Cricket Board helped to pay for the 'county class' facility at Oldswinford Cricket Club.

The former concrete based nets, which had been at the pitch off Albemarle Road for at least 20 years, were dug up to provide the new, artificial grass carpet surface, surrounded by 12ft high nets with a surrounding 10ft tall security fence.

Work to install the two-lane nets was carried out during the winter and they are now in use every week. Money to pay for the nets, which cost £36,000 also came from the Istock Cory Environmental Trust. The trust was set up by Istock Brick Ltd and Cory Environmental Ltd, funded through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

The club has a total of nearly 200 members, including five adult teams and around 120 players aged seven to 16.

The younger members include 30 girls and the club last summer began encouraging children and teenagers with disabilities, including sensory impairments and those with learning or co-ordination difficulties. Club secretary Ken Slater said: "Involving people with disabilities was the idea of one of our coaches, 22-year-old Katie Blunt, who approached Dudley Council to invite young people, aged eight to 14, who have disabilities.

"Twenty-two joined us last summer and they thoroughly enjoyed it. The look on their faces when they were able to catch a ball was tremendous and now some of the children are integrating with our able-bodied young members."

Anglers able to dangle their lines in new lake

ANGLERS will be able to try out fishing in a new lake created as part of an ongoing redevelopment of a farm in the Midlands.

Mirror carp, crucian carp and tench are among the fish now stocked in the new lake at Broadfields Fishery in Cutnall Green between Kidderminster and Droitwich.

The fishery is part of the developments going on at Broadfield Farm including a 30-acre woodland which is just entering its fourth year of growth. Old, redundant agricultural buildings are also being converted to small business accommodation at the farm off the A442 Kidderminster to Droitwich road. The first lake, which is called the Laurels, opened its gates for fishing for the first time at the weekend. It has 32 fishing pegs and is surrounded by young woodland and open countryside. It is well-stocked with fish which also include roach, which weighed up to 10lb at the time of stocking last year. For further information visit the website www.broadfieldsfishery.com.

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FOCUS ON ROWLEY REGIS & BLACKHEATH

Retirements means choir looking for a new leader

A BLACKHEATH over-60s choir is looking for a new leader.

Hazel Taylor and Joyce Leah recently retired after around four years as joint leaders of the Live at Home choir.

An interim leader has since taken over, but now management is looking for someone to permanently fill the position.

The choir rehearses once a week at the Central Methodist Church, on High Street, and performs at nearby venues.

It is part of the Blackheath Live at Home scheme, which provides support and activities for elderly people living independently in the area.

Scheme manager Peter King said: "We want someone with musical experience, ideally a retired music teacher." To register an interest, call Mr King on 0121 559 6111.

Spring fair to raise funding

A METHODIST church in Rowley Regis is making final preparations on its spring fair due to go ahead this weekend.

Knowle Methodist Church on Dudley Road will hold its annual fair on Saturday May 11 between 11am and 1pm.

Admission is 20p with proceeds going to the church.

Finishing date for expansion at primary school is in sight

A FINISHING date has been set for the expansion of a school in Rowley Regis to meet the demand for extra school places

Rowley Hall Primary School in Windsor Road is due to finish its expansion in September and will see the addition of a new nursery and reception as well as improvements to the original school building to make it a four-form school.

The work is part of a larger £7 million expansion scheme in the region managed by Sandwell Council who hope to create an additional 630 school places.

Sandwell Councillor Simon Hackett, said: "It is important we continue to provide quality places to meet demand and this work will do just that."

"We have already provided over 300 new reception places over the last two years across Sandwell and this programme of expansion is set to continue."

"As an idea of the scale of the increase the reception class intake five years ago was around 3,800 while this coming academic year it will be almost 4,600."

The extension at Rowley Hall will consist of nine new classrooms, a nursery, small hall, studio and new

Kyran kicks the opposition out

A MAN from Halesowen sliced through the competition to win a national karate tournament. Kyran Cox, aged 19, beat 35 competitors at the Battle of the Celts, which was held at Treviglas College, Cornwall. He won £500 and a replica sword.

by Tom Mason

kitchen.

The School's Business Manager, Tracey Myers-Horton said: "The work is very important not only to the school, but also to the area as a whole, which has a rising demand for extra school places."

"The building work is already doing very well and we hope to have the first parts of the building finished in June ready for the opening in September."

The additional classrooms will also see an increase in the number of staff at the school as each additional class is added, on a year-by-year basis.

"We are all very excited about the expansion and are looking forward to having a nice new building," added Mrs Myers-Horton.



Karl Denning 43 from Dudley and his guide dog Quasia at Highfields Primary which has raised money for guide dogs. He is with pupils from left Summer Wilks, aged four, Lucy Jones, Lewis Barnett, Lauren Patrice, Bliss Ward and Reegan Jenkins, all aged five

Children raise cash for charity

NEARLY £500 has been raised by children at a primary school in Rowley Regis who were eager to help users of guide dogs.

Sixty children in the reception class at Highfields Primary School, Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, walked 20 laps of their playground to raise cash for the Guide Dogs charity.

The pupils managed to raise £494.56 in sponsorship money by walking the 1.6 miles

Becky Powell, reception class teacher, said: "They loved doing the walk, we had some who walked the whole distance and others who wanted to run it."

"Some did it in half an hour while others only took about 15 minutes."

Karl Denning from the charity visited the school to collect the cash, and to the children's delight brought along one of the dogs for the youngsters to meet.

MP calling builders to bring ideas to the table

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris is inviting building firms to give their ideas for boosting the local economy.

The Conservative MP will hold a construction summit on May 17 to bring local companies together with the Government's planning minister, Nick Boles MP.

Firms will be able to tell Mr Boles about obstacles to growth in the sector and the changes needed to create jobs.

Mr Morris said: "As the co-chairman of the Parliamentary Group on Local Growth, one of my top priorities is to find ways to break down the barriers to economic growth so that we can unlock the sector's full potential, while protecting the quality of our local environment."

To book a place at the summit call 0121 550 6777 or email mikej.wood@parliament.uk.

Learn how to find ancestors

MEMBERS of a history group in Blackheath are giving people the opportunity to trace their family's past in weekly sessions.

Meetings run by Blackheath Local Interest Group are being held each Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm at Blackheath Library.

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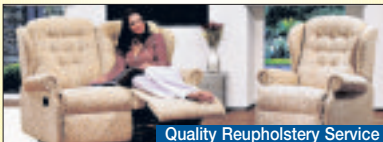


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NEWS

Death rates at hospital will be probed by team

SENIOR doctors, nurses and patient representatives will visit Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital this week as part of an investigation into high death rates.

NHS medical director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh is leading the review of 14 hospital trusts across the country in the wake of the Stafford Hospital scandal.

The team is visiting Russells Hall after mortality rates showed higher-than-expected rates for the past two years.

During the visit, which will last between two and three days and which is due to start on Tuesday, the team will observe the hospital in action as well as taking part in meetings with patients, the public, and staff.

It will then be followed up with a second, unannounced visit at a later date.

Russells Hall is in the first batch of four hospitals to be visited as part of the investigation.

The review will examine each hospital trust and consider whether enough action is being taken by bosses to improve quality and if any additional support should be made available. A 'risk summit' will then take place to decide on action to be taken.

Prof Keogh said: "I am determined that these reviews should be about identifying solutions to any problems that may exist. I am interested in not just providing a diagnosis, but helping to write the prescription and provide support to these hospitals to help them improve."

"A higher than expected mortality rate does not in itself tell us that a hospital is unsafe. For example, units delivering highly complex and specialist care could legitimately have higher mortality rates."

Fellowship meeting date

HAGLEY Wives and Women's Fellowship will welcome hairdresser Richard Harvey, from Oldswinford, to St Saviour's Church Hall, Hagley, at 8pm, on May 15. On May 28, the group will enjoy a beetle drive, and, on June 11, a guided walk at Leasowes Park.

Brothers bring the silver



Brothers Max, aged 15, left, and Ross Hart, 14, of Hagley, celebrate success at the British Taekwondo Championships

TWO brothers who took up Taekwondo after wanting to become Power Rangers as youngsters are celebrating after winning titles at the British Championships.

Max and Ross Hart, from Hagley near Stourbridge, now have so many trophies their mother Donna joked they 'take quite some dusting'. Their latest haul came at the IT'S British Taekwondo Championships which were held in Kidderminster earlier this month. Together the brothers, who have been training for 10 years, they took home first

place in the tag team competition while Max, aged 15 also finished second in the light continuous section and Ross, aged 14, came second in the point stop competition and first in the light continuous division. The pair, of South Gardens both attend Haybridge High School, and are also black belts in Taekwondo and kickboxing.

They train with Verve Martial Arts, Hagley, and also, in Birmingham, and are supported in their efforts by their delighted parents Donna and Nick Hart.

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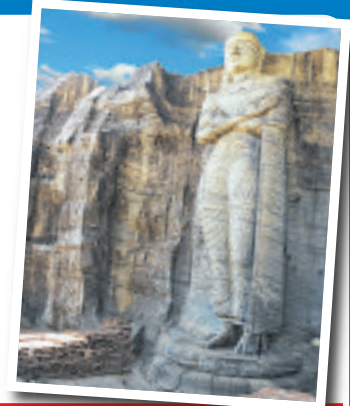
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For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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CLUB NEWS

'A Day in Court' is recalled

Young carers raise project awareness

BLACKHEATH 'M' TWG

THE April 24 meeting was the first meeting of the 2013/14 year and was opened by chairman Doreen Armstrong.

She welcomed all members and speaker David Berry, whose subject was "A Day in Court".

Doreen then introduced new secretary Sue Boulton and presented her with the official secretary's badge.

Monthly reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley, outings co-ordinator Brenda Ellesmore and Press officer Iris Harris.

The free raffle was conducted by Heather Greenland and three ladies won prizes of hand lotion.

The speaker gave the group a treat with his memories from his "day in court", recalling amusing incidents and tragic experiences.

A tall story which had the group in gales of laughter was a lady who was always stealing tins of food from supermarkets and driving her poor husband to distraction. He gave evidence that she had stolen a tin of fruit.

The magistrates asked how many pieces of fruit were in the tin and she said 12. He then said she would be detained for 12 days, upon which her husband said she had also stole a tin of peas!

At the next meeting on May 22, the speaker will be Hazel Reynolds whose subject will be "Swiss Cheese".



President Tina Watson, right, with representatives from the Young Carers Project

TINA Watson was recently inducted as President of SI Bilston & District and one of her charities for her term in office is the Spurgeons Young Carers Project.

So that members would be fully acquainted with its work, Tina invited project worker Baldish and assessment officer Wendy, who help manage the Wolverhampton branch. Two young carers also very kindly attended so that members could hear first-hand the scenarios from their day-to-day lives. The Spurgeons Young Carers Project supports eight-to-18-year-olds who have a significant caring role for a parent,

BILSTON & DISTRICT SI

sibling or other family member. The project tries to link with schools and agencies so the young people can gain the confidence to come forward and receive the support they need.

It is hoped that these young people will then raise awareness of carers, and to help them with this, Soroptimist International Bilston & District, which is in its 70th year, hopes to raise funds and offer training to a group of 16 plus carers who will then spread the word by giving presentations in schools and offering peer support.

Cotswolds visit on cards

THE chairman greeted members and visitors and the social secretary gave further information regarding the visit to the Cotswold Lavender Fields.

The visit will also include time to be spent in the Cotswold village of Broadway. A list was sent round

QUARRY BANK E TG

concerning the federation lunch to be held at the Mill Hotel.

The evening's meeting featured a display and demonstration of Clinique

beauty products. Demonstrator Becky had brought along a wide range of items skilfully demonstrated their properties, all accompanied by a friendly and light hearted commentary.

On May 21, the meeting will include a bring and buy table.



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The Opening Ceremony is a new event which has become extremely popular since its introduction last year. A military guard provides an escort to the keys and the heavy wooden doors to the Tower are officially opened by the duty Yeoman Warder.

Once inside there are a variety of attractions on offer. These include guided tours with the Yeoman Warder; the must-see spectacular display of Crown Jewels, still regularly used by The Queen; the White Tower, which houses displays from the Royal Armouries collection; Tower Green, where some of the great names of history died by order of the state, and of course, there are the famous ravens that live within the Tower grounds.

The visit is followed by a relaxing cruise along the Thames to Greenwich, and a return journey on the Emirates Air Line, the first urban cable car system of its kind in the UK, which travels over the Thames and the O2 Arena with views of the Olympic Park, Canary Wharf and the Thames Barrier. There will then be some free time in Greenwich, home of Greenwich Mean Time.

A visit to Royal Windsor is also featured on the itinerary, famous for its royal connections and castle (entrance not included), Great Park and many specialist and souvenir shops.

INFO

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- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Tower of London
- Cruise along the River Thames
- Trip on the Emirates Air Line Cable Car
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

London Legacy one year after the games

Two days departing August 3



PRICE FROM £109

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Tour of the Olympic sites with a Blue Badge guide
- Return trip on the Emirates Airline Cable Car
- Visits to Windsor and Royal Greenwich
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Buckingham Palace

Day trip departing August 11 and September 29



PRICE FROM £59

- Return coach travel
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace including The Queen's Coronation 1953 special exhibition
- Services of a tour driver

Two and four days trips are also offered to Buckingham Palace

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Wimbledon

Two days departing July 6 and 7



PRICE FROM £139

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 court to see the finals of the Junior and Veteran events
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

London break

Two days selected monthly departure dates



PRICE FROM £99.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Free time in London for shopping and sightseeing
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Afternoon Tea at the Ritz

Two days departing August 11



PRICE FROM £199

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at an outer London hotel
- Tour manager escort to Afternoon Tea at The Ritz
- Visits to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne Bar St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Torquay Cruise and Steam

Four days departing July 12 and 19



PRICE FROM £239

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Torquay, Dartmouth, Buckfast Abbey, Plymouth and Exeter
- Journey on the Dartmouth Steam Railway
- Cruise on the River Dart
- Optional South Devon Railway excursion
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The View from The Shard

Two days departing July 20 and October 5



PRICE FROM £139

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to The View from The Shard accompanied by a tour manager
- Thames cruise
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Walking in North Devon

Four days departing July 19



PRICE FROM £225

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Two fully guided walks in North Devon
- Visit to Barnstaple
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Paris by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £259

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tours of Paris by day and night
- Visits to Versailles and Montmartre
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

The Stunning Italian Lakes

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £599

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation, three nights Lake Garda and four nights Lake Mergozzo
- Full day tour of Lake Garda
- Visit to Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands
- Full day tour to Lake Como and Lugano in Switzerland
- Transfers between the lakes
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Classical Spain

Seven days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £549

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tours of Seville and the Alhambra Palace in Granada
- Visits to Cordoba and Ronda
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



NEWS

£1m football complex is next phase for college

A £1 MILLION football complex will be the next phase of Dudley College's town centre 'learning quarter', new plans reveal.

An all-weather flood-lit pitch will be created as part of the work that will be open to students, local schools and the community.

There will be changing facilities along with parking for players and visitors. It will be funded by the college and through grants.

College leaders are working with nearby Castle High School, the FA and the council on the plans.

The complex will be built on playing fields next to Castle High in Priory Road.

College principal Lowell Williams, said: "The 3G football pitch will be a tremendous addition to the Learning Quarter and support the college's commitment to sporting excellence."

"Building on the Olympic legacy, the new sports facility will improve the level of competitive football across the borough, and continue to help in the regeneration of the town centre."

The Learning Quarter includes the Dudley Evolve vocational campus, which opened in September on the site of the former fire station in Tower Street. A £6million manufacturing and engineering complex - called Dudley Advance - is also planned for a site off Priory Road.

Email to report rogues

ROGUE traders in Worcestershire can now be reported through a new email service set up by the county council. Tip-offs from residents reporting suspicious activity from tradesmen will then be followed up Trading Standards. The email, report-it@worcesterservices.gov.uk, gives residents a direct method to send information to intelligence officers. For more information visit Worcestershire Regulatory Services website.

Some bread for jam jars



Ros Bratt-Wyton, from the Georgina Unit in Dudley, eyes up the jam jars people can fill with loose change for the charity fund

JAM jars may be small but a dedicated band of fundraisers are hoping they will generate plenty of cash for a good cause.

An appeal has been launched to raise funds for a refurbishment of the Georgina Unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital. Fundraising coordinator Pauline Jenkins, from

The Leukaemia Appeal Fund, said people are being asked to fill up a jar with loose change.

The money will then be used to help fund a revamp of the patients waiting area for the leukaemia unit.

Jars can be collected from the charity's shops on Kent Street in Upper Gornal and in Brockmoor.

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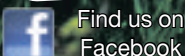
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REVIEWS

Thea back on the circuit with a real sense of style

Thea Gilmore
Town Hall Birmingham

THE prolific singer songwriter Thea Gilmore is back on the circuit after taking an enforced time out for the birth of her second son and she came back in style at the Town Hall complete with string quartet and grand piano.

The statuesque Gilmore opened with a track from *Regardless*, her latest and 14th album, *This Is How You Find Me* which came with a beautiful and full sound from her nine-piece backing group.

Gilmore slowed things down for an old song on acoustic guitar with cello and fiddle backing the slow ballad before moving into *Beautiful and Hopeful* which had a deeper rockier beat where she even managed to sound a little like Joan Armatrading.

Another track from her album followed, *Start As We Mean To Go On*, which again had more of rock sound than folk.

With *This Road*, Gilmore started solo - her clear voice filling the hall before the backing of the group and string quartet slowly built up to a much fuller sound.

Acoustic

She then pulled a really interesting one out of the bag - an acoustic version of the old depression anthem *Brother Can You Spare A Dime?*

Gilmore then kept the folksy feel with an *A Capella* offering called *The Amazing Floating Man* about the banking crisis and her powerful and clear voice didn't even strain to fill the hall.

Her connection with the songs of the legendary Sandy Denny of Fairport Convention fame is well known and she paid tribute to the late songstress with a soft ballad *The Pain On My Heart* which was backed beautifully with just the quartet and grand piano.

Towards the end of the set she moved back to the rockier sound of *You're The Radio*, which had a feel of the MOR rock the US produces in such abundance



Thea Gilmore has a new album

More rock than folk, Regardless

Regardless
Thea Gilmore

IF Oxfordshire singer/songwriter Thea Gilmore is looking to move away from her folk persona then she is doing it in fine style with her new album *Regardless*.

If you asked the average Joe in the street which genre to place her 14th album into it would be surprising to hear anyone say folk.

It is very commercial sounding, very rock and strangely enough very retro with certain tracks having a flavour of the 80s - early 90s.

This said even with Gilmore being

out of the mainstream for a while she has lost none of her talent for sharp lyrics and catchy beats. Opening with *Something To Sing* About Gilmore's rapid fire lyrics keep up a pretty sharp tempo on what is an MOR sounding track which has a slight rock undertone and brings about memories of Belinda Carlisle and Pat Benatar.

The track is followed by a classical-style opening sound of *This Is How You Find Me* which is one of another of those songs that seems to evoke memories of the 80s and Gilmore's clear voice is not best showcased here.

Title track of the album is a pretty good ballad with a strong undertone but again it sounds like something The Corrs recorded in the early 90s when the Irish became the Riverdance people.

One of the more interesting tracks on the album is *Spit and Shine* which wouldn't be out of place on Pat Benatar's *Crave*, it has the African undertone and Gilmore does what she does best with sharp lyrics and precise singing.

I Will Not Disappoint You is one of several soft ballads along with *Punctuation* and *This Road*. *I Will Not ...* is probably as close to a folk song any of the tracks get on the album but it is a pleasant and thoughtful piece.

In between there are the heavier beat sounds of *Start As You Mean To Go On* which has a very American MOR rock feel to it and stands a good chance of being successful across the pond, this also applies to *Love Came Looking For Me* which had more than a little resemblance to several Pat Benatar songs.

Regardless is out now on the Full-fill label and for more information visit www.theagilmore.net.

Danny Farragher

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School that's passionate about pupils' potential

AT Colley Lane School the staff are very proud of all they can offer their children.

They are passionate about all children in their charge achieving their full potential while learning in a caring environment.

The school has high expectations of behaviour and learning, and all of the staff work hard to enrich the curriculum and encourage a love of learning, the arts and sports.

Staff at the school are also proud that the SATs results were at the highest they have been for the last five years.

The school believes in providing its children with outstanding pastoral care while catering for all the pupils educational and emotional needs.

They offer a wide variety of support and interventions.

Sports

Excellent sports provision and opportunities to achieve are also goals the school considers important.

Children can get involved with teams and clubs for football, gymnastics, netball, hockey, street dance, athletics and cricket and the school's multi-skills team is due to go to the Black Country Youth Games to represent Dudley.

Fantastic lunchtime clubs ranging from jewellery making to art, craft and playing games, glass painting, pottery and enterprise are provided.

And the children are given opportunities to experience exciting trips and fascinating visitors.

Highlights so far this year have been the Zulu Warriors and the Black Country chainmakers.

Charlotte, a year six pupil said: "I thought the Zulu performance was really memorable and I loved it when the teachers took part too."

The school also has outdoor learning in its own "Forest School" area where



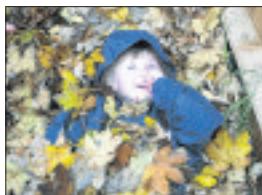
Year six children enjoying guided reading



Ready, steady, go! Preparing for the Colley Lane olympic games

children have the opportunity to learn new social skills as well as how to use saws, ropes and make hot chocolate. "I like climbing trees and swinging," said Youcaf, from the reception class.

The school has its own orchestra, where children can learn to play many different instruments and pupils in year two and four all learn an instrument under expert tuition. There is also a nursery with free morning or afternoon places for children from aged three, with wraparound care and places available for September 2013.



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Designed by
Georgia Smith
Year 6

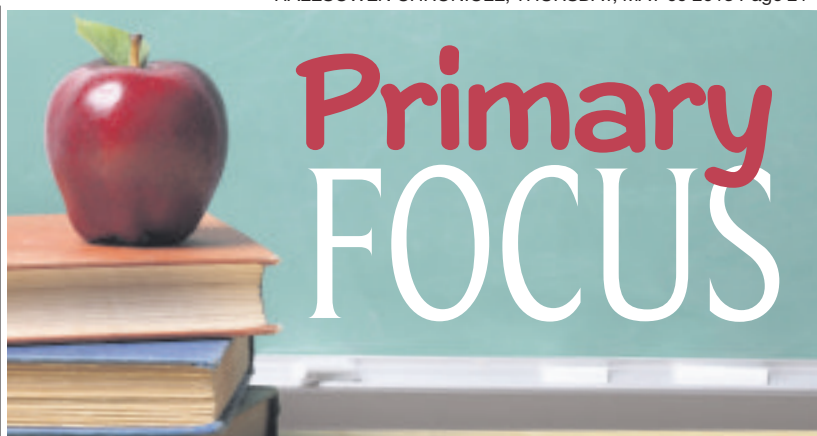
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Norfolk House Nursery is a day nursery for children aged between 3 months and 4 years

OPEN EVENT

Saturday
11th May
10.00am - 1.00pm

NEWS

Call over clearing derelict buildings

CAMPAIGNERS demanding derelict buildings are cleared from parts of Cradley to boost regeneration have raised their concerns with their MP.

Margot James, who represents Stourbridge, visited members of the Cradley Action Group for a tour of the area.

Calls have been made for the old empty shops in the Colley Gate and Windmill Hill areas to be demolished to help revamp the town.

Around 150 residents packed into The Laurels Club, in Windmill Hill, for the first group meeting last week to discuss the issue with Dudley Council officers.

They rounded on the officials, including Rupert Dugdale, the authority's head of economic development, and Phil Coyne, assistant director for economic regeneration and transportation, demanding answers.

One of the campaign leaders Richard Legiewicz said the meeting last week with Margot James was very positive. "We went through the main points with her," he said. "She was shocked at the state of the buildings in the photographs we showed to her and walked down to take a closer look."

"She has suggested a couple of areas where she may be able to help and will progress this in the coming weeks." The next meeting of the action group will take place on June 3 at The Laurels Club starting at 7.30pm.

Ambulances are failing to meet 30-minute deadline

AMBULANCE crews are still struggling to deliver patients to A&E and prepare for their next call-out within the 30-minute guideline time, latest figures show.

Hospitals have blamed the figures on a winter surge in A&E patients, while the ambulance service said it had seen 'significant delays' which had become worse since the new year.

by Sharon Marris

Ambulance guidelines say it should not take longer than 15 minutes to hand a patient over at the hospital, and another 15 minutes before crews are ready for their next call-out.

However, of the 22 hospitals covered in West Midlands Ambulance Service's latest figures, just five hospitals managed the average turnaround time of 30 minutes or less.

Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital was the worst performer in the area covering Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, Staffordshire and Worcester.

Of the 2,990 ambulance trips there during March, only around 40 per cent managed a turnaround time of less than 30 minutes.

The average time taken

was 42 minutes and seven seconds, with 21 per cent of ambulances taking longer than 45 minutes.

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We have had extra nurses on duty in the emergency department since the beginning of this year and we are in the process of recruiting five extra nursing staff to help us assess and move patients through the emergency system efficiently."

"We have also set up an acute medical rapid assessment triage team who assess the needs of those patients who are being admitted into the hospital to help move them into the most appropriate ward."

Drop off point for food

A building society in Dudley has been named as a drop-off point for a community food bank.

Yorkshire Building Society, in Stourbridge High Street, has opened its doors to donations of non-perishable items to support the Black Country Food Bank. Around 120 items have already been collected by staff at the building society, including tinned foods, pasta and dried goods. Branch manager Kulvinder Kullar said: "We're committed to supporting residents and are delighted to be a drop-off point."



Bumper crowds – Natasha Holland with daughter Mia Kelley aged five from Tividale

Sunshine gives zoo a big day

BUMPER crowds turned out at Dudley Castle and Zoo, where staff celebrated one of the attraction's best bank holiday weekends.

More than 12,000 people flocked to the site to bask in the sunshine in the grounds of the castle and visit the animal enclosures.

Due to the steady flow of families through the gates, the zoo's opening hours were extended to 7pm on Monday.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said: "A huge thanks to everyone who joined the bumper anniversary crowds at Dudley Zoo – we've had the best bank holiday visitor numbers for years and welcomed more than 6,500 people on site."

"We celebrated our 76th birthday in style and staff made the decision to extend visitor hours."

"We enjoyed a fantastic day with figures topping 6,500. We had queues snaking back up Castle Hill, we had to put on extra tills, the car parks were overflowing and we had run out of chips by midday."

NEWS in brief

Beauty spot set for a spring walk

WALKERS can enjoy a spring stroll at a Halesowen beauty spot this weekend.

The warden at The Leasowes will lead a walk across the Grade I listed landscape and nature reserve on Saturday.

The spring flower walk starts at 10am and finishes at noon. Visitors will be able to see celandines and wood anemones on the route.

The walk starts from the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill, Halesowen. Book a place on 01384 814642.

Library packs to see bygone ages

MEMORABILIA packs containing copies of newspapers with major events and collections themed on days gone by are now available for loan from Dudley libraries.

The 26 individual packs cover themes such as the 1950s, a 1960s childhood, the RAF at war and Christmas past.

Packs are available at Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Brierley Hill and Sedgley libraries. For further information call Sue Harper on 01384 818360.

Charity fun day

A FAMILY fun day will take place on Saturday for a Dudley cancer charity. The event at The White House in Ednam Road will run from 10am to 4pm and will include live music and stalls as well as a tombola and raffle. Proceeds will go to White House Cancer Support.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

College airline helping to give students flying start

AIRLINE FlyKC is ready for take-off – and students seeking a job in the airline industry as cabin crew can now sign on for a course at a Midlands college.

Staff and governors joined students at Kidderminster College to celebrate the launch of FlyKC, but it is an airline that is not all it seems.

An aeroplane cabin has been installed in a classroom on the second floor of the building in Market Street to provide hands-on experience for students of travel and tourism. It is a simulation designed to let students experience the difficulties associated with serving food and drink in confined spaces. In the demonstration FlyKC passengers were welcomed and allocated boarding cards by those on the travel and tourism course.

They were then directed to their seats where a safety demonstration took place and refreshments from the FlyKC were served. Pat Marshall, head of professional studies at the college, said: "The day we had planned for the governors was great."

"They enjoyed seeing the new facilities and we had a lot of fun during our travel experience with FlyKC."

"I was very impressed with the attitude of the students and to see them in a professional environment was very rewarding for us. They gained some valuable feedback for their practical module assessments."

Di Whitehouse, programme leader for travel and tourism, said: "In this competitive job market, this will push the local learners a step ahead of the competition."

£5m plans withdrawn

PLANS to build a canalside housing estate next to a proposed £5 million glass museum in Stourbridge have been withdrawn by the developers as further discussions take place with council bosses.

A decision on granting planning approval to build 48 new properties on the site off the old Stuart Crystal glass works, in Wordsley, was due to be made. But developers withdrew the plans before Dudley Council's planning committee meeting ahead of further negotiations with planning officers on the housing scheme. A fresh date for the application to come before

the committee has not yet been set.

Homes would be built on part of the former glassworks, off Argyle Close, under the proposals by Morris Homes Ltd. A Grade II listed former factory is due to be developed into a museum showcasing the history of the area's glassmaking heritage.

It stands near the Red House Glass Cone attraction and it is hoped to become the centre piece of Stourbridge's Glass Quarter.

The housing scheme had been recommended for approval by officers, who said it would help to breathe new life into the redundant site. Under the proposals a mix of 26 apartments and 22 three and four-bedroom properties would be built. They would overlook the Stourbridge Canal, which runs

through the former glassworks.

Planning committee chairman, Councillor Rachel Harris, said: "The plans were withdrawn from the meeting by the developer pending further negotiations of their planning obligations."

The museum plans are being led by Complex Development Projects, which owns the land, and Dudley Council in partnership with the British Glass Foundation. The Stuart Crystal works, also known as the White House Glass Cone, will house glass collections from across the region under the plans.

Complex Developments director Ian Harrabin says the developer is waiting to hear about whether a £2million bid for European funding has been successful.

Zoo grows exotic treat

BAMBOO grown at Dudley Zoo is providing a tasty treat for some of the animals.

Keepers have been cultivating shoots on the 40-acre gardens to supplement the diet of many of the rare animals kept there.

Head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman, said: "Bamboo is a relatively easy and quick crop to grow and makes the site look attractive as well as supplying a foodstuff for many of the mammals."

She added: "We've got plenty of space to grow the bamboo and it's an interesting addition to the existing traditional landscape."

Old boys footie day proves a success



Front, from left, head of fundraising Vicki Rowles, community fundraiser Sally Inley, with, back from left, lottery manager Charlotte Cameron, bar stewards Steve Dimmock and Sharon Dimmock, goalkeeper Matthew L. O. W.

A TEAM of football legends came together for a special match to raise money for a hospice.

Former Aston Villa player and 1982 European Cup Winner Ken McNaught spearheaded the team of West Midlands All Stars that also included Lee Hendrie.

They were matched against a team of Stourbridge Old Boys at Stourbridge Football Club. More than £6,000 was raised for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Hospice spokeswoman Sally Inley, said: "It went really well. We have not managed to count all the money but it was really good, I think we've raised more than £6,000."

"The players were really nice. Ken McNaught is an absolute legend. They hung round after the game, speaking to fans, and had pictures taken."

"It was a really great community atmosphere."

Other highlights during the event at the War Memorial Athletic Club ground, Ambicote High Street, included stalls, a crossbar challenge and an auction with lots including a signed Sir Geoff Hurst football shirt. Stourbridge Old Boys won the game 4-2.

Ms Inley added: "I think a few people were surprised. With all the ex-Villa players, I think lots of people thought the writing was on the wall, but it was good to see the underdogs win."

"We will definitely look to do this event again."

Former centre-half Ken McNaught made more than 207 appearances in the claret and blue and went on to play 42 times for the Baggies.

MP helping to raise profile of syndrome

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James is backing a campaign to raise awareness of a chromosome disorder. She hosted the launch of the Max Appeal Consensus Document in the House of Commons.

The document aims to set a standard for the diagnosis and treatment of people with 22q11 deletion syndrome; a disease which causes a range of symptoms including heart defects, a cleft palate and mild differences in facial features.

Ms James welcomed over 80 guests at the official launch of the document, including fellow Stourbridge resident and Max Appeal founder Julie Wooton. Stourbridge constituents who suffer from the condition, clinicians from the USA, Canada and Belgium, and Dr Alex Habel, who established the longest running 22q11 clinic at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

She said: "I was very pleased to be able to host the launch of the Max Appeal Consensus Document in Parliament."

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What's On! Halesowen

REVIEW

Impressive folk duo but so different

THIS popular folk duo were making their third appearance to the Newhampton Inn, Whitmore Reans and were welcomed by a pretty full house.

James Hickman from Shrewsbury has a slightly manic style of playing guitar while Dan Cassidy, brother of tragic singer Eva, although he didn't play on or even mention it, from Maryland US is as laid back as it's possible to be without falling over.

Hickman is an impressive musician but Cassidy is in a different league and even though they have known each other for years, their personalities seem mismatched which doesn't really give any chemistry on stage.

Hickman does all the singing and most of the talking, sometimes too much engaging with the 'hecklers' in the audience who were obviously familiar with them from past gigs.

Cassidy has this sort of impassive staring quality speaking rarely and when he does it is with a laconic US drawl.

Towards the end of their set they pulled out a rather unique version of Scarborough Fair which didn't actually mention the title and brought things to an end with The Walls of Time.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Sex, drugs, rock and roll and Nod's humble start

They're singing 9 to 5

DOLLY Parton's 1970s-set musical 9 to 5, based on her hit movie, comes to Wolverhampton Grand on Tuesday for a five-day run. Featuring a guest appearance by the country queen herself on screen, the raunchy comedy tells of three down-trodden office workers who get revenge on a sexist monster of a boss.

Bonnie

The female trio at the forefront feature Amy Lennox as Dolly clone Doralee, who is not the 'Backwoods Barbie' she appears. She is joined by Jackie Clune as taken-for-granted Violet and Natalie Casey as mousey Judy.

The Bill's Ben Richards has a wonderful time as wicked boss Franklyn and Bonnie Langford has a stunning transformation as the boss worshipping. Roz in a show that makes for a great girls' night out.



Dolly divas - Jackie Clune, Amy Lennox and Natalie Casey star in musical 9 to 5

"It was sex, drugs and rock n roll," Noddy chuckles. "We had a right old time."

"We were working class kids from Wolverhampton and Walsall and suddenly, we were thrust into first class hotels and travel. We were getting sex and drugs thrown at us - if you don't take advantage of that, you're crackers."

Noddy's days at the height of Slade fame contrast with humble beginnings in Walsall. "We had no money," the 66-year-old recalls. "I didn't think of us as being poor. We'd have an orange, a bag of nuts and a Beano book for Christmas, we were happy."

Home

"There was an outside toilet, shared, with three houses to a yard. There was a back scullery, where the moms would do the washing, and a tin bath. Then there was the front room, the posh room, that nobody ever went in. We lived in the middle room with a big black grate and a coal fire."

"When I think of Walsall, 'ome is the first thing that comes to mind," says Noddy, despite not having lived in the town since he was 18. "We were in a little terraced house in Caldmore, like a Coronation Street-sort-of-house. I was born in it."

Noddy passed his 11-plus



Noddy Holder - proud to call Walsall his home

exam and went to Grammar School in Bloxwich, but dropped out to join the local music scene, which led to a hit-making career with Slade in the 1970s.

"I'm on tour again now, with the DJ Mark Radcliffe, from BBC Radio 2 and BBC 6music, telling our stories from the past. Mark asks me a few questions."

Noddy and Mark will play Telford's Oakengates Theatre @ The Place tonight (Thursday) and the tour also visits the Palace Theatre in Redditch on May 17.

WIN TICKETS

Oh boy, a tribute to Buddy

THE Chronicle has teamed up with live concert show Buddy Holly - a Legend Reborn to give five lucky readers the chance of winning a pair of tickets to see the spectacular production at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton on Saturday, June 16.

Special guest is original rock 'n' roll icon Jess Conrad OBE, joined in this new production by Tracy Lea as Connie Francis.

Buddy Holly - A Legend Reborn is a slice of rock 'n' roll nostalgia that ensures Buddy's incredible legacy of hit songs lives on. Headlined by Stars in Their Eyes winner Marc Robinson as the Texan rock 'n' roller, the show is at the Grand for it's only local date on a national tour.

For your chance to win answer this question: Buddy Holly - a Legend Reborn features a special guest appearance by which original 1960s pop icon?

Send your answer on a postcard with name, address and daytime phone number to: Chronicles (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date May 17. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. For tickets contact the Grand on 01902 429212 or see www.grandtheatre.info

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 11.05.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Vin Diesel

The Jonathan Ross Show ITV, 9.45pm

A few years ago, Vin Diesel appeared on Jonathan Ross's BBC1 show to plug Fast & Furious. Diesel brought the house down with his recollections about giving The Iron Giant an even deeper voice than usual. 'Does your chest vibrate when you do that?' asked Ross. 'The world vibrates,' laughed Diesel. Now they're back for more banter as Vin plugs Fast and Furious 6, part of which was shot in the UK. Also promoting their latest projects are Jamie and Louise Redknapp and Yoko Ono, and a pair of magicians from The Illusionists perform in the studio.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying. **2.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. **4.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.40 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Doctor Who. The Doctor and Clara take their two new companions to a dilapidated galactic theme park, where they encounter a shabby showman, a chess-playing dwarf and an old enemy.

7.45 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series.

8.35 The Voice UK. The first of two shows this weekend in which the coaches begin to whittle down their acts by pitting them against each other in sing-offs – with a possible lifeline for the losers. Continues tomorrow.

9.50 Casualty. A teenage girl is brought in after ingesting an unknown toxic substance – but her relatives seem to be the ones with serious problems.

10.40 BBC News: Weather.

11.00 Match of the Day: National Lottery Update.

11.30 Film: Minority Report. (2002) Sci-fi thriller, starring Tom Cruise, Colin Farrell and Samantha Morton.

1.50 Weatherview. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.10** Film: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt. (1996) **8.25** Film: Sealed Cargo. (1951) **9.55** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix – Practice Three. **11.10** The Sky at Night. (R) **11.30** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.00** Just a Minute. (R) **12.30** Talking Pictures. **1.15** Film: Kind Hearts and Coronets. (1949) **2.55** Film: The Man in the White Suit. (1951) **4.20** Coast. **5.05** Restoration Home. (R)

6.05 Flag It! From Coventry Cathedral. Presented by Paul Martin. (R)

7.05 Dad's Army. Jones suffers a financial crisis. (R)

7.35 The Magic Tricks of JJ Abrams: A Culture Show Special. The director talks about his new film Star Trek Into Darkness.

8.05 The Star Trek Story. Documentary exploring the history and cultural impact of the sci-fi franchise, which began in 1966 with the TV show created by Gene Roddenberry. (R)

9.00 The Many Faces of Robbie Coltrane. New series. Profile of the actor and comedian, who had hits in TV shows Tutti Frutti and Cracker and achieved worldwide fame portraying Rubeus Hagrid in the Harry Potter films.

10.00 Blackadder: The Third. Edmund falls foul of Dr Johnson. (R)

10.30 The United States of Television: America in Primetime. TV characters who seek the truth, protect the innocent and do the right thing. Last in the series.

11.30 Film: A Bronx Tale. (1993) Drama, with Robert De Niro.

1.20 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.00** Jessie. **8.25** TV News. **8.30** Saturday Farm. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.30** River Monsters. (R) **2.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **3.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **3.15** The FA Cup Final – Live.

7.45 Britain's Got Talent. The auditions continue as more singers, dancers and variety acts attempt to impress the four judges and secure a place in the live semi-finals. Ant and Dec present.

8.45 The Cube. A Liverpool woman is confident she can do well in the contest, having practised at home with her sister, while an IT project manager aims to win enough cash for a house deposit.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by celebrity couple Jamie and Louise Redknapp, artist Yoko Ono and actor Vin Diesel. With performances by magicians from The Illusionists and rock band Bastille.

10.45 ITV News: Weather.

11.00 FA Cup Final Highlights. Manchester City v Wigan Athletic.

12.00 Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? School's Out. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.

3.00 The Starter Wife. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British GT. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Frasier. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** Heston's 80s Feast. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.15** The Simpsons. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Charity worker Rosie Smyth hosts a 'come-as-your-teenage-self' evening. (R)

6.45 Come Dine with Me. Merchant Navy officer Fiona Rush hosts the final dinner party in Belfast, hoping to impress with a nautical theme and fish dishes, before the winner is announced. (R)

7.15 Channel 4 News.

7.45 Film: Avatar. (2009) A soldier uses a genetically engineered body to help an alien tribe fight off a corrupt mining corporation. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana.

10.50 Film: Mirrors. (2008) An alcoholic nightwatchman begins seeing strange images reflected in mirrors and believes an evil spirit is haunting him. Horror, starring Kiefer Sutherland and Paula Patton.

12.55 Jaws: The Great White Myth. The monster movie's impact on Hollywood and the natural world. (R) **1.50** Southland. (R) **2.35** Hollywood. (R) **4.45** Deal or No Deal: Deal in Space. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Frontline Police. (R) **12.55** Emergency Bikers. (R) **1.55** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) **2.50** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) **3.45** Film: Columbo: Caution – Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health. (1991) **5.35** Film: Jesse Stone: Night Passage. (2006)

7.10 NCIS. A marine is killed after changing his religious persuasion. (R)

8.00 NCIS. An investigation into the bizarre murder of a Navy pilot leads to a confrontation between the NCIS team and a no-nonsense attorney with a grudge against Gibbs. (R)

8.55 5 Weeks Weekend.

9.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler are called in to investigate when a former opera singer with multiple sclerosis is found beaten and raped in her home.

9.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A journalist is found dead with an X carved into her cheek.

10.50 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Nichols investigates the death of an old family friend.

11.45 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.55** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.40** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.05** Angels of Jarm. Aaron goes on a school trip. (R)

5.15 Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear Bolivia Special **8.20** World's Craziest Fools **9.20** Russell Howard's Good News **9.50** How to Win Eurovision **11.50** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 South Pacific **8.00** Jazz Horns Gold **9.00** Anne Dahl: To the Top of the Mountain – Part Two **10.30** Frank Sinatra: The Voice of the Century – Arena Special

ITV2

2.40 Film: Flipper (1996) **4.40** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **6.30** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **8.45** Britain's Got More Talent **9.45** You've Been Framed! **10.50** Celebrity Juice **11.40** Britain's Got Talent

ITV3

1.15 Film: Seabiscuit (2003) **4.00** Lewis **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wire in the Blood

ITV4

1.15 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Pune Warriors v Mumbai Indians and Kings XI Punjab v Sunrisers Hyderabad. **8.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights

9.00 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **10.30** Film: Soldier (1998)

E4

5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Youngers **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: The Last Exorcism (2010) **10.45** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** The Cleveland Show

Film4

3.10 Five Children and It (2004) **4.55** Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (1986) **7.20** Juniper (2008) **9.00** The Time Traveler's Wife (2009) Romantic drama, starring Rachel McAdams and Eric Bana.

11.05 Alien Resurrection (1997)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 12.05.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Graham Norton

British Academy Television Awards BBC1, 8pm

There's a strong chance Sheridan Smith should walk off with a Bafta this weekend for her knockout performance in ITV drama Mrs Biggs. In the Best Actress stakes, she's up against Anne Reid (Last Tango In Halifax), Rebecca Hall (Parade's End), and Sienna Miller (The Girl). Up for the Leading Actor mask is Ben Whishaw (Richard II), Derek Jacobi (Last Tango In Halifax), Sean Bean (Accused) and Toby Jones (The Girl). This year's winners will be announced at London's Royal Festival Hall, with Graham Norton hosting the proceedings.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00 The Big Questions.** **11.00 Sunday Politics.** **12.10 Live Formula 1:** Spanish Grand Prix. **3.15 Points of View.** **3.30 Escape to the Country.** The series' best properties in Devon. **4.00 Songs of Praise.** **4.35 The Diamond Queen.** Defining moments of Elizabeth II's reign. Last in the series. **5.35 BBC News:** Regional News. Weather. **6.00 Countryfile.** The presenters are in Hampshire, where Matt Baker helps out on HMS Warrior, and Julia Bradbury tells the story of the Cockleshell Heroes and visits the only wasabi farm in the UK. Weather for the Week Ahead. **7.00 The Voice UK.** Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates present as the battle rounds continue, with Jessie J, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue pitching more of their acts against each other. **8.00 British Academy Television Awards.** Graham Norton hosts the annual ceremony celebrating the best of British TV, including a special recognition award for a member of the Olympics presenting team. **10.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **10.25 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Stoke City v Tottenham Hotspur and Queens Park Rangers v Newcastle United. **11.55 Film: The Whistler.** (1987) Thriller, with Michael Caine, Nigel Havers, James Fox and John Gielgud. **1.35 Weather.** **1.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.35 Film:** Press For Time. (1966) **8.15 Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** **9.30 The Beechgrove Garden.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30 Chinese Food Made Easy.** (R) **12.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British:** (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.50 EastEnders:** (R) **2.40 Triathlon.** **3.45 Final Score.** **5.30 Great British Food Revival.** **6.00 Flog It!** Catherine Southon and Mark Stacey locate interesting items at St Petroc's Church in Bodmin, Cornwall. Presented by Paul Martin. (R) **7.00 Coast.** Stories related to the sea, including a tale that scandalised Victorian Britain when survivors of a shipwreck killed a cabin boy and drank his blood to survive. Last in the series. (R) **8.00 The Challenger.** Fact-based drama about American physicist Richard Feynman's determination to reveal the truth behind the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster. Starring William Hurt. (R) **9.30 The Fantastic Mr Feynman.** A profile of American Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman, featuring interviews with the man himself as well as his friends, colleagues and family. **10.30 Mock the Week Looks Back at Royals.** **11.00 "Not Like Any Other Love": The Smiths - A Culture Show Special.** **11.30 Film: Somers Town.** (2008) **12.40 Sign Zone:** Countryfile. (R) **1.35 Holly City.** (R) **2.35 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITY: Special Agent Oso. **6.10 Special Agent Oso.** **6.25 The Hive.** (R) **6.35 The Hive.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.55 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.05 Animals.** (R) **7.15 Animals.** (R) **7.20 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **7.30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **8.00 Sonny with a Chance.** **8.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Country House.** **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **10.20 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.20 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) **12.20 ITV News:** Weather. **12.30 Love Your Garden.** (R) **1.25 Britain's Got Talent.** (R) **2.25 Film:** About a Boy. (2002) **4.15 Midsomer Murders.** (R) **6.15 Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.30 ITV News:** Weather. **6.45 Catchphrase.** Revival of the game show, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. **7.30 Off Their Rockers.** A pensioner asks for help when her hearing aid breaks, and another has to be moved around in a supermarket trolley when her wheelchair is stolen. Last in the series. **8.00 The Suspicions of Mr Whicher: The Murder in Angel Lane.** Having left his career at the Met, Whicher is hired to investigate the murder of a woman's niece. Period detective drama, starring Paddy Considine and Olivia Colman. **10.00 ITV News:** Weather. **10.15 Perspectives:** David Suchet. **11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** **12.10 The Store.** **2.15 Motorsport UK.** Action from the latest races at Brands Hatch. **3.05 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **3.55 Work.** (R) **4.35 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.05 Will & Grace.** (R) **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Frasier.** (R) **8.55 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **2.00 Film: The Golden Child.** (1986) **3.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.45 Deal or No Deal: Deal in Space.** **5.45 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **6.40 Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud meets a couple transforming 5,000sq ft of derelict basement in west London - but without proper architects' drawings, confusion kicks in almost from the start. (R) **7.35 Channel 4 News.** **8.00 Celebrity Deal or No Deal: JLS.** The boy band take part in a celebrity edition of the game show, battling the banker and trying to guess the value of the mystery boxes to win money for charity. Noel Edmonds hosts. **9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie.** (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil head to Greece for a wild holiday - but things don't go to plan. Comedy, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird and James Buckley. **10.55 The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments.** A countdown of the comedy show's highlights. (R) **11.55 Film: Nacho Libre.** (2006) Comedy, starring Jack Black. **1.30 Film: Somers Town.** (2008) **3.15 Gok's Style Secrets.** (R) **4.10 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** (R) **5.05 Deal or No Deal: Deal in Space.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15 Fifi and the Floortots.** (R) **6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **6.30 The Men Show.** (R) **6.45 Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **6.50 Chloe's Closet.** **7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.20 Animal Antics.** (R) **7.30 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) **7.40 City of Friends.** (R) **7.55 Little Princess.** (R) **8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.20 Funky Town.** (R) **8.25 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.40 Rupert Bear.** (R) **8.55 Milkshake! Show Songs.** (R) **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) **9.30 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **9.45 Jolly Jamm.** (R) **10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurai.** (R) **10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold.** **11.00 How Do They Do It?** (R) **11.30 Building the London Underground.** (R) **12.35 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild.** (R) **1.35 Film: See Spot Run.** (2001) **3.30 Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory.** (1971) **5.30 5 News Weekend.** **5.35 Film: Godzilla.** (1998) **8.00 Once Upon a Time.** Emma and Captain Hook climb the beanstalk. **9.00 The Truth About Travellers.** Henry McKean explores travellers' attitudes to employment. Last in the series. **10.00 Film: Blitz.** (2011) Premiere. Thriller, with Jason Statham. **12.05 Soho Blues.** (R) **1.05 SuperCasino.** **3.55 Michaela's Wild Challenge.** (R) **4.45 County Secrets.** (R) **4.55 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.05 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.15 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.25 The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.35 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00 Formula 1:** Spanish Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the fifth round of the season. **8.00 Emeli Sandé Live in London.** **9.00 Russell Howard's Good News Extra.** **9.45 Sweat the Small Stuff: Extra Sweaty** **10.30 Barely Legal Drivers** **11.30 Family Guy** **BBC Four** **7.00 She-Wolves: England's Early Queens** **8.00 Roundhead or Cavalier: Which One Are You?** **9.00 Wings Over the World** **10.15 Love Me Do: The Beatles '62** **11.15 Queens of Jazz: The Joy and Pain of the Jazz Divas** **ITV2** **2.45 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium** (2007) **4.40 Britain's Got Talent** **5.40 Britain's Got More Talent** **6.45 Film: Kindergarten Cop** (1990) **9.00 Film: Couples Retreat** (2009) **11.20 Celebrity Juice** **ITV3** **2.30 Film: The Great Gatsby** (2000) **4.30 Film: Thoroughly Modern Millie** (1967) **6.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot** **8.00 An Audience with Barry Manilow** **9.00 Film: Something's Gotta Give** (2003) **11.30 A Touch of Frost** **ITV4** **11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket.** **8.00 Premiership Rugby Union** **9.00 Film: Year of the Dragon** (1985) **11.45 Capital Crackers** **E4** **3.40 How I Met Your Mother** **4.35 Revenge** **5.30 The Big Bang Theory** **7.00 Film: St Trinian's** (2007) **9.00 Darren Brown: Svengali** **10.35 The Big Bang Theory** **11.35 New Girl** **Film4** **3.15 Big Fish** (2003) **5.40 Australia** (2008) **8.00 Layer Cake** (2004) **Crime thriller, starring Daniel Craig.** **11.05 Working Girl** (1988)

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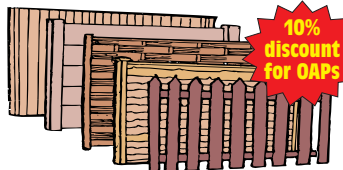
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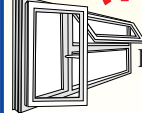
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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

The Outlaw Josey Wales, Channel 5, 11pm
A Confederate soldier refuses to surrender at the end of the Civil War, and is branded a dangerous outlaw. Crossing America in search of sanctuary from the army and bounty hunters, he only wants solitude – but ends up with a strange assortment of travelling companions. Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. (1976)

TUESDAY

Mississippi Burning, BBC1, 11.40pm
Two mismatched FBI agents, one a tough former sheriff, the other a by-the-book idealist, are sent to a small town in the Deep South to investigate the disappearance of three civil rights activists, only to come up against a conspiracy of silence. Alan Parker's drama set in the 1960s, starring Gene Hackman, Willem Dafoe, Brad Pitt, Michael Rooker, R Lee Ermey and Frances McDormand. (1988)

WEDNESDAY

Wild Hogs, BBC1, 11.05pm
Four friends going through a mid-life crisis decide to dust off their old motorcycles and hit the open road on a 2,000-mile cross-country trip. However, a run-in with a mean biker gang disrupts their carefree adventure. Comedy, starring Tim Allen, John Travolta, Martin Lawrence, William H Macy and Ray Liotta. (2007)



Daybreakers, Thursday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

Daybreakers, Channel 5, 9pm
In the near future, vampires have taken over the world, with the few remaining humans farmed as a food source. An undead scientist tries to develop synthetic blood, only to run into a human revolutionary group who claim to have discovered a cure for vampirism. Thriller, starring Ethan Hawke, Willem Dafoe and Sam Neill. (2010)

FRIDAY

Rumor Has It, ITV, 10.35pm
An obituary writer discovers that her mother and grandmother's affairs with the same young man decades before could have been the inspiration for the book and film The Graduate. Intrigued by the possibility, she sets off for San Francisco to find the charmer who left her relatives reeling. Romantic comedy, with Jennifer Aniston. (2005)

Nurse Betty, Channel 4, 1am

A woman goes into a delusional state after her thuggish husband is killed, and travels to Los Angeles in search of a handsome soap-opera idol. However, she is unaware the hitman responsible for her spouse's death are hot on her heels, determined to silence her and reclaim the stash of drugs hidden in the boot of her car. Comedy thriller, starring Renee Zellweger. (2000)

Pick of the Week

Eve's return is more than out of this world

Next time you're tuning in to Popmaster on Radio 2, spare a thought for the nation's district nurses. You might not realise it, but the dulcet tones of daytime favourite Ken Bruce can offer an oasis of calm for those at the hectic forefront of home-based medical care.

Or at least they can for Frankie Maddox, lead character in BBC One's uplifting new medical drama series, **Frankie, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm**, whose love of the veteran DJ helps her to make it through the various stresses and traumas of being a community nurse.

It's a rare lead role for Eve Myles, best known for playing Jack Harkness's sidekick Gwen Cooper in Doctor Who spin-off Torchwood. So rare, in fact, that the actress could hardly believe her luck when she got the role: "Even two days before wrapping, I woke up my partner in the middle of the night and said, 'I can't believe I got Frankie!'"

Compared to Gwen Cooper, Frankie is a complete change of pace. Unlike the terminally troubled

medics that populate most hospital-based medical dramas, she is always upbeat, cheerful and professional, if not above a certain amount of mischief. "She is very energetic and loves life, music, dancing, food and wine! She has a naughty, almost childlike sense of humour, but when it comes to her job there is no one else you would want."

It's an attitude the actress observed when exploring the world of district nurses. Eve felt the role required some research, particularly as it's a career not often seen on television. "The biggest thing I stole from spending time with them was how they adapt to every single different situation... and how they have lots of fun when they are not on duty!"

If this makes Frankie's life sound like a breeze, it's not. While her commitment to her patients is never less than 100 per cent, when it comes to personal relationships she is not always so successful. Her easy-going attitude does not impress her uptight boss Dr Evans

(Jemma Redgrave), and much of the drama throughout the series arises from their conflicting approaches to medical care.

Likewise, things seldom run smoothly with her boyfriend Ian Hargreave (Dean Lennox Kelly), a straight-talking copper whose brusque attitude is often at odds with that of his girlfriend. Says Kelly: "He has a tough exterior, but struggles to match and be able to deal with such a strong woman," and it's not clear whether they can survive as a couple. "I'm not sure if their bond is strong enough, you have to be able to understand your partner's work and I can't know... as her work won't change."

When it comes to Ken Bruce, however, Myles is certain it's a love that will last. "He's the other man in her life. When she gets in her car it becomes her personal social place... He brings the wannabe pop star out in her!"

Nursing has never sounded so good.



Eve Myles stars in Frankie, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Vicious

ITV, 9pm

Freddie prepares himself for an important audition but, unsurprisingly, he still manages to find the time to help Ash, who's worried about his own career. Freddie seizes the opportunity to spend time with the young man by persuading him to try acting – but when his protégé turns out to be hugely successful, Freddie's confidence takes a beating, and he needs Stuart to lift him out of his depression. Violet needs both men firing on all cylinders – she's having problems with her Hungarian boyfriend and is desperate for advice. But has she really come to the right place for it? Derek Jacobi, Ian McKellen, Frances de la Tour and Iwan Rheon head the cast of the comedy series.

Skint

Channel 4, 9pm

Unemployment and benefits are emotive topics at the moment, but what is it really like to live with long-term unemployment, or to grow up with no expectation of ever being able to find work? That's the issue at the heart of this new documentary series, filmed over nine months in Scunthorpe. It focuses on 37-year-old Dean, a father and stepfather to nine children who used to be employed at the city's steelworks, but now gets by on benefits. He's the viewers' guide to life on his estate, where being out of work is far from unusual and many of the residents do whatever they can to survive.

TUESDAY

Shameless

Channel 4, 10pm

Chatsworth's own Tony Soprano, Mimi Maguire, is having a hard time at the moment as the head of the estate's number one crime family. She's facing problems James Gandolfini's gangster never had to worry about – including the menopause – and that's causing all sorts of turmoil in the family, as she's ready to retire from the business for good. While she plans to up sticks and move to Wilmslow House, she's also hoping to leave behind a lasting legacy in the form of a new school gym. There's trouble elsewhere in the clan, too, as Shane tries to end his relationship with Randall – who doesn't take the news too gladly.

WEDNESDAY

The Apprentice

BBC1, 9pm

It's easy to laugh at some of the business hopefuls featured on this series – and let's be honest, it's also fun. But it's worth bearing in mind that some of the tasks Alan Sugar throws at them are really difficult. For example, this week they have to come up with an idea for unique piece of flatpack furniture, produce a prototype and pitch it to retailers, all within a 48-hour period. Some of us would need longer than that to decipher the instructions for a self-assembly chest of drawers.

However, the aspiring entrepreneurs are giving it their best shot as one team settle on a folding chair, while the others think outside the box with a multifunctional cube.

THURSDAY

Aliens: Are We Alone?

Channel 5, 8pm

While we'd love to believe that somewhere in the universe extraterrestrials are building monolithic spaceships and are ready to pay us a (hopefully) benign visit, we have no idea whether intelligent life exists beyond the confines of our blue world. (No shock revelation there, sorry). Of course that doesn't stop documentary-makers creating time-fillers such as this film. It explores the possibility of the existence of extraterrestrial life, focusing on the research being undertaken using the Kepler space telescope which is on a mission to find habitable planets. No documentary these days is complete without CG animations bringing these theoretical worlds to life. It also speculates on what aliens might look like.



The Mentalist, Friday, Channel 5, 9pm

FRIDAY

The Mentalist

Channel 5, 9pm

We know Patrick Jane is obsessed with finding serial killer Red John. He has spent the past five series doing little else, apart from making cups of tea, driving Lisbon crazy, and outwitting murderers with a series of clever mind games. Now the California Bureau of Investigation's most unusual independent consultant narrows down the list of people who could be Red John to seven suspects. However, the man who killed his wife and daughter strikes again, and Jane is dealt another blow when he discovers the victim is linked to Jane's past. Star spotters: if social worker Miriam Gottlieb looks familiar, that's because she's played by Laura San Giacomo of (arty lower case) sex, lies and videotape fame.

Alan Carr: Chatty Man

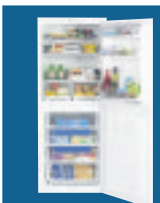
Channel 4, 10pm

Funnyman Alan has little trouble getting big stars to the show, but tonight's guests are impressive even by his standards. They include one of the biggest-selling music artists of all time in rocker Rod Stewart who, having sold well in excess of 100 million records, has a whopping 74 Platinum awards to his name. Here, he drops in to talk to Alan about the record, titled Time, and the accompanying tour which will see him head to venues up and down the country throughout June. Let's hope he doesn't overshadow tonight's other guests, including fellow singer-songwriter Miles Kane, who talks about his career and performs his latest single Don't Forget Who You Are.

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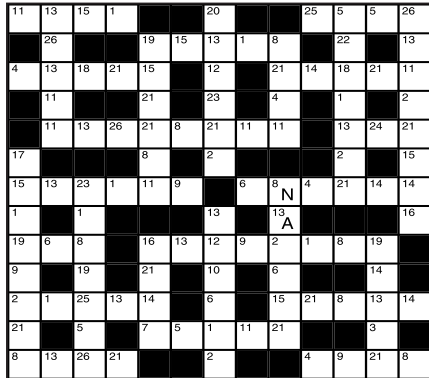
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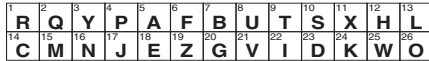
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

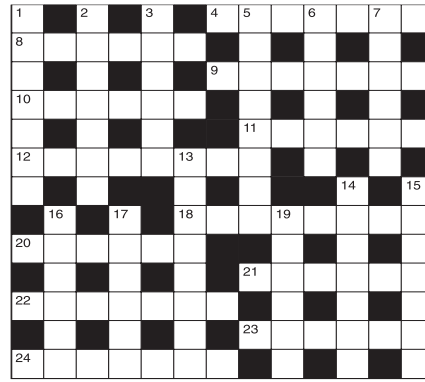
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Requests for a variety of apples (7)
8. If lost, they may be broken (6)
9. Study one sporting event or another (7)
10. I creep around, being useful to the cook (6)
11. Looked deeper, perhaps (6)
12. This gallery is no place for the artist who creates a scene! (8)
18. It was left at sea (8)
20. Routed as a diversion (6)
21. Superior gambler (6)
22. Slow train that follows one that is late (7)
23. Achieves success with the orchestration? (6)
24. A target for a race-meeting (7)

Down

1. Pray the change will do you good! (7)
2. A girl sent round transport for the sailors (7)
3. Possible result of giving us port! (6)
5. If you start to act dumb, he should help you (8)
6. The respect in which going up meets the point (6)
7. He should honour his agreement to the letter (6)
13. It expresses assent and no mistake! (3,5)
14. Runs ten cars perhaps (7)
15. Speech and attire of modern times (7)
16. Break into plain language? (6)
17. I left first followed by a Shakespearean heroine (6)
19. Turn pale (6)



Quick Clues:

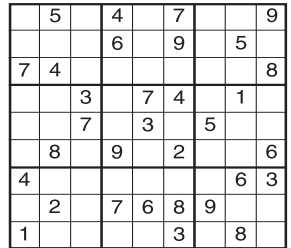
Across

4. Particular (7)
8. Filament (6)
9. Startled (7)
10. Rotten (6)
11. Illness (6)
12. String of beads (8)
18. Apportion (8)
20. Run aground (6)
21. Din (6)
22. Lofty (7)
23. Relax (6)
24. Balcony (7)

Down

1. Salary (7)
2. Defend (7)
3. Of the lips (6)
5. Helter-skelter (4-4)
6. Ring (6)
7. Items of business (6)
13. Scholarly (8)
14. Sickly-sentimental (7)
15. Fate (7)
16. Arrange fifty (6)
17. Higher (6)
19. Speaker (6)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	7	9	4	1	2	5	8
9	1	5	8	6	2	7	3	4
2	4	8	3	7	5	1	9	6
3	6	2	1	9	4	8	7	5
4	7	1	6	5	8	9	2	3
8	5	9	2	3	7	4	6	1
5	2	3	4	1	9	6	8	7
7	8	4	5	2	6	3	1	9
1	9	6	7	8	3	5	4	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Nightshirts; 9 Tip; 10 Plane tree; 11 Entry; 13 Net gain; 14 Larder; 16 Razors; 18 Justice; 19 Ditty; 20 Crime wave; 21 Err; 22 Best sellers. Down: 2 Imp; 3 Happy; 4 Stains; 5 Inertia; 6 Turn about; 7 Steeplejack; 8 Tennis court; 12 Turnstile; 15 Evident; 17 Rebate; 19 Dwell; 21 Ear. QUICK - Across: 1 Legerdemain; 9 Use; 10 Negotiate; 11 Doffs; 13 Sullied; 14 Shrike; 16 Strain; 18 Artist; 19 Buyer; 20 Cast aside; 21 Eel; 22 New Year's Day. Down: 2 Ewe; 3 Emes; 4 Digest; 5 Matelot; 6 Imaginary; 7 Outdistance; 8 Leading role; 12 Foretaste; 15 Ecstasy; 17 Retina; 19 Bless; 21 Era.



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2-4 ANSON STREET,
RUGELEY, STAFFORD



55 CAUSEWAY,
ROWLEY REGIS

FORTHCOMING AUCTION

Thursday 23rd May 2013

To be held at... Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am

72 Lots to include:

1 854 COUNTRY ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B10 0TZ	£90,000 - £96,000	36 1 HORNER WAY ROWLEY REGIS, WEST MIDLANDS B65 0JD	£135,000 - £155,000
2 198 BRIDGEMAN LANE, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B70 0EA	£45,000 - £50,000	37 BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL, W. 1JD	£165,000 - £185,000
3 88 DULLEY DEAN ROAD, SEELY OAK, BIRMINGHAM B29 8PX	£95,000 - £100,000	40 WICKHURST HOUSE, 81-85 NEW ROAD, RUGBY, BIRMINGHAM B43 8SR	£200,000 - £225,000
4 55 CAUSEWAY, ROWLEY REGIS, WEST MIDLANDS B65 0AA	£150,000 - £164,000	41 THE DOCKWOOD, 316 HANDESDON ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B20 2PA	£750,000 - PLUS
5 200 PRIORY ROAD, HART GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B28 0ST	£90,000 - £97,000	42 FORMER WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, BETWEEN 159	
6 RARA WORKSHOP 227 DUDLEY ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B27 8EY	£4,000 - £9,000	AND 173 HEATHEND ROAD CITY 7JB	
7 15 FERRIS CLOSE, WILLSHALL, WEST MIDLANDS W17 2SU	£72,000 - £78,000	43 3 HIGH STREET MARKET MARTIN, SHROPSHIRE TR9 1PY	
8 1 CRANBURY ROAD, KINGSNATON, BIRMINGHAM B44 0BU	£84,000 - £91,000	44 2 ALEXANDRA ROAD, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B63 4JU	
9 567 RUGSEY GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B15 5YU	£165,000 - £170,000	45 24 CROFT AVENUE, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM B42 1JB	
10 120 LODGE ROAD, HOCKLEY, BIRMINGHAM B15 5JU	£58,000 - £74,000	46 APARTMENT 4, SUN HOUSE, 9-10 BENNETT'S HILL, BIRMINGHAM B2 9HS	
11 8 ELY CLOSE, CHALKLEY WOOD, BIRMINGHAM B27 8PU	£72,000 - £76,000	47 APARTMENT 20, SUN HOUSE, 9-10 BENNETT'S HILL, BIRMINGHAM B2 9HS	
12 1 ROCKLAND ROAD, SPINWOOD, BIRMINGHAM B11 1HN	£125,000 - £130,000	48 41 HOLDSWORTH HALL, NICHOLLS, BIRMINGHAM B15 5PA	
13 21 STEPHEN ROAD, SEELY OAK, BIRMINGHAM B29 7PP	£92,000 - £98,000	49 74 BEESBEE ROAD, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B70 6BH	
14 MADDORE LANE, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL W10 8SP	£270,000 - £295,000	50 103 THE COMMON, EARLWOOD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B36 5SH	
15 UNIT 10, PORTLAND STREET, WALSALL W62 8AD	£150,000 - £170,000	51 1172 AND PART OF 1174 STAFFORD ROAD, HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B28 8AF	
16 22 HENRIETTA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM B12 0DU	£170,000 - £195,000	52 31 BARCLAY ROAD, BEARWOOD, WEST MIDLANDS B67 5YH	
17 230 DUDLEY ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS, WEST MIDLANDS B65 8LY	£90,000 - £95,000	53 LAND ADJACENT TO 31 BARCLAY ROAD, SNEATHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 5YH	
18 82 HOLLY ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B20 2DA	£700,000 - £725,000	54 2 NEWBURY ROAD, LEIGHWORTH, LEAF, LEAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSHIRE CV32 9TD	
19 217-219 CHERWOOD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B9 4UD	£45,000 - £52,000	55 THE LODGE, TRINITY STREET, LEAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSHIRE CV32 9PH	
20 9 YORK ROAD, LEAMINGTON, BIRMINGHAM B22 8TE	£120,000 - PLUS	56 124 FERGUSON ROAD, STROCKLEY, BIRMINGHAM B20 2DU	
21 221 LUTELS ROAD, LUTELS, BIRMINGHAM B15 5YU	£175,000 - £195,000	57 GARAGES TO THE REAR OF 460 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD, BILSTON, WY4 9QB	
22 8 BLOSSOMFIELD ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B91 1LD	£250,000 - PLUS	58 24 ANSON STREET, RUGELEY, STAFFORDSHIRE, W615 2BB	
23 45 WANDWORTH WAY, KINGSWORTH, WEST MIDLANDS B78 8TY	£48,000 - £53,000	59 42 EYAL ROAD, HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B29 0LF	
24 41 THORNTON LANE, BIRMINGHAM B44 0SB	£95,000 - £100,000	60 189 PARK ROAD, COVENTRY CV5 9BG	
25 38 JACKSON ROAD, ALUM ROCK, BIRMINGHAM B35 3AS	£80,000 - £85,000	61 124 FARRER ROAD, NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM B21 5AH	
26 1 WALSLEIGH STREET, ROWLEY REGIS, WEST MIDLANDS B65 0HS	£130,000 - £150,000	62 27 ROWLEY STREET, WALSALL, W. 1JD	
27 24 CONQUEST ROAD, LEAMINGTON, BIRMINGHAM B22 8AG	£70,000 - £75,000	63 2 NEWBURY ROAD, LEIGHWORTH, LEAF, LEAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSHIRE CV32 9TD	
28 UNIT 1, WANDWORTH GATE LANE, CLAYTON, STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE DY9 0EN	£165,000 - £205,000	64 175 HIGH STREET, BIRELEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS B95 2EB	
29 51 REGENT STREET, WILLOWHALL, WEST MIDLANDS W1V3 1DL	£240,000 - £260,000	65 124 FARRER ROAD, NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM B21 5AH	
30 124 KILBOURNE ROAD, BELPER, DERBYSHIRE DE38 1SA	£95,000 - £100,000	66 FLAT 2, CHAUNCEY GRANGE, 353 BIRMINGHAM ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD B27 1DL	
31 33 CITY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B15 5AH	£140,000 - £150,000	67 THE OLD COACH HOUSE, OFF GREEN STREET, SNEATHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 7EB	
32 8-10 BROAD STREET, CLUBURY, WEST MIDLANDS B69 4SH	£220,000 - £250,000	68 ANTON PLACE, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B15 5YU	
33 96 BROAD STREET, BIRMINGHAM B15 5AU	£185,000 - £205,000	69 83 BRACKS ROAD, CLUBURY, WEST MIDLANDS B69 2EB	
34 21A, 21B, 23, 25, 27 WINDMILL END, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 8JU	£260,000 - £280,000	70 45 HALEY ROAD, EDNINGTON, BIRMINGHAM B22 7TP	
35 77 OFFICE STREET, CHEWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B65 9PZ	£50,000 - PLUS	71 188 ALEXANDER ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B27 8HA	
36 FOR 50 WOODLARK ROAD, WARD END, BIRMINGHAM B9 2TD	£14,000 - £16,000	72 22 MIDDLE ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B91 1AN	
37 UNIT 3, MARKET SQUARE, WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 0AL	£9,000 - £11,000		

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CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD

Modern and spacious detached house in a convenient location. This unfurnished house has had a complete redecoration and new carpets downstairs, the property features 4 good sized bedrooms, en-suite, house bathroom, modern kitchen, spacious lounge, study room, downstairs wc, spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a large rear garden and decking area. Available now. EPC: C

£750 PCM



HALESOWEN, INKBERROW ROAD

A 3/4 bedroom town house located in central Halesowen on the popular Huntlands Estate comprising: modern fitted kitchen, large living room, 3 double bedrooms plus bedroom fourthly. Gas central heating. Double glazed throughout. Bathroom with shower. Driveway for 3/4 vehicles. Garage not included. Private rear garden. Not to be missed! EPC: D

£675 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NEWLAND GARDENS

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul de sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned hall with conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating/double glazed. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC: D

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD

A large and unfurnished semi detached house in a well sought after location, close to local primary school and ideal for access to Birmingham. Featuring gas central heating, 2 living rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: E

£625 PCM



HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B

£625 PCM



OLDBURY, ST MATTHEWS ROAD

Refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom mid-terrace property in Oldbury/Quinton area has lounge, fitted kitchen, blow air central heating, white bathroom suite with shower, separate wc, rear garden with parking. Available immediately. EPC: D

£600 PCM



HALESOWEN, LONG LANE

A fully refurbished three bedroom detached property, close to the railway station and Blackheath town centre featuring 2 double and 1 single bedrooms, large lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen with all integrated appliances, bathroom with white 7' played bath and shower, double glazing, gas central heating, parking available for 1 car. Viewing highly recommended. Furnished to suit. EPC: E

£595 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MARY MACARTHUR DRIVE

Close to local transport links and shops. A well present semi-detached house which is set in a cul-de-sac location features 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge leading to a dining area, fitted modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, driveway for 2 cars and a garage, rear garden, available now. EPC: C

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEAUMONT ROAD

Superb fully re-furnished traditional semi-detached house available end of April. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed. A must see property! EPC: E

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAWNE COURT

Located in a quiet, desirable neighborhood this well kept ground floor apartment is situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, TIMBERTREE CRESCENT

Located within easy reach of Timbertree School. This semi detached house has been fully refurbished to a high standard and features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen diner, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, rear garden having outbuildings. On road parking. Available immediately. EPC: C

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEECHER ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached house, ideally located for local shops, buses and Colley Lane Primary School, briefly comprising of 3 bedrooms, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs bathroom, laundry room, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, driveway parking, front and rear gardens. A value for money property. EPC: D

£525 PCM



BARTLEY GREEN, LUDFORD ROAD

Located in the woodgate area, ideal for the local primary school, this newly decorated 3 bedroom semi detached house features: fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking, mature rear garden. EPC: D

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, ADAMS COURT

Conveniently located for local shops and buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. A large and spacious ground floor apartment features modern decor and fixtures and benefits from gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking space. EPC: C

£525 PCM



TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house has undergone a redecoration. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and is in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC: C

£500 PCM



HALESOWEN, WILLETS DRIVE

A few minutes walk from buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This wonderfully presented mis-terraced property features 2 double bedrooms, well decorated lounge, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking, front and rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: C

£510 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, BAGLEY STREET

Deceptive large and within walking distance to Stourbridge town centre. This lovely semi-detached house features a lovely lounge, large dining kitchen with gas oven and hob, 2 double bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, nice size rear garden, on road parking, double glazing, gas central heating available now. EPC: B/C

£485 PCM



HALESOWEN, CLEINT HOUSE

Stunning views from this top floor apartment. Located within walking distance to Halesowen, this apartment features 2 double bedrooms, a light and airy lounge, house bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with a small fridge, warm air heating, double glazing, available now. EPC: D

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, SEEDHOUSE COURT

Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, a part furnished ground floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge with sofa and dining table and chairs, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: D

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ST GEORGES ROAD

Spacious and quiet. A totally refurbished 1st floor apartment featuring electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen with a fridge freezer, 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC: D

£425 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, BELMONT ROAD

An unfurnished mid terrace house which features 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs wc, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, on road parking. Available now. EPC: B/C

£375 PCM

Property



Retaining the charm and appeal of a period property with lots of outside space is this large house in Tetterhall

Distinctive property reduced by £20,000

A DISTINCTIVE four bedroom, two bathroom detached family home in Tetterhall has been reduced in price by £20,000 and is now on the market at £460,000.

The Laurels in Codsall Road provides spacious and versatile living accommodation, having been sympathetically restyled whilst retaining the charm and appeal of a period property.

The accommodation includes a reception porch to the entrance hall with utility, fitted cloakroom, dining room with period style fireplace and beamed ceiling, living room, conservatory, open plan breakfast kitchen, four bedrooms with the master en-suite, family bathroom and study.

Outside is a driveway with off road parking for several vehicles leading to a garage, while to the rear is a garden described as magnificent as agents.

On the ground floor the cloakroom has a WC and corner wash hand basin.

The dining room measuring 16ft 1in by 14ft 4in has a feature inglenook style brick fireplace with living flame coal effect fire with beam above and folding doors to a living room - 19ft 8in by 12ft 5in - with an original marble fireplace with open grate and slate hearth.

A door leads to a conservatory, 16ft 1in by 11ft 7in, and with door to the rear garden.

The breakfast kitchen, 12ft 4in by 11ft 11in, has a range of wall and base units, tiled work tops, ceramic sink, Rangemaster dual fuel stove with

extractor hood over and archway to a family room, 14ft 4in by 12ft 10in and with access to a garage.

On the first floor bedroom one has a range of built-in wardrobes and a white en-suite with shower cubicle, vanity unit with WC and cupboards and there are three more bedrooms, a study and bathroom with white suite with roll top bath, shower cubicle, WC, bidet and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the rear garden has a full width patio with steps down to a shaped lawn, borders, shrubs and trees, rockery and a covered arch to a 'secret garden' with summerhouse and paved terrace overlooking extensive lawns.

Call Thomas Harvey on 01902 758111 for details.



Well maintained – this semi-detached property in Dudley has been reduced in price to £103,950 to tempt buyers

House has to be seen

THIS well-maintained semi detached house in Dudley has been reduced in price to £103,950.

Would-be buyers are being recommended to view the interior of the property in Laurel Road, Wrens Nest to avoid disappointment.

The house is approached through wrought iron gates and briquette driveway.

On the ground floor is a WC with toilet and living room – 17ft 7in by 10ft

4in – with coal effect gas fire with marble type surround and hearth and timber fireplace and patio doors to a conservatory measuring 11ft 6in by 9ft 2in and with door to the rear garden.

There is also a dining area, 7ft 8in by 6ft 7in.

The kitchen measures 10ft by 6ft 2in and with a ceramic sink, wall and base units, work tops and plumbing for automatic washing machine.

On the first floor are three bedrooms

and a bathroom with white suite comprising panelled bath with shower and screen, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the rear garden has a timber decking area, gravel area and lawn with flowers and shrubs.

For more details or to arrange a viewing call Skitts of Sedgley on 01902 686868.

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Cherry Orchard Crescent, Halesowen



EPC D

£185,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, driveway, garage and rear garden. Halesowen.

Unitt Drive, Cradley Heath



Awaiting EPC

£140,000

A modern property with accommodation comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, WC, three bedrooms, family bathroom, drive, garage and rear garden. Halesowen

Throne Road, Rowley Regis



EPC D

£115,000

Traditional property with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, further kitchen utility area, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

Upper Ashley Street, Halesowen



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

A modern terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, two bedrooms, gardens and ample parking spaces. Halesowen.

Wiltshire Drive, Halesowen



EPC D

OIRO £110,000

Modern semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac. The property comprises kitchen, three bedrooms, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

Westfield Road, Halesowen



EPC E

Offers Over £100,000

A semi detached house comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, two bedrooms, bathroom, drive and garage. Halesowen.

New Pool Road, Cradley Heath



EPC D

£90,000

An end terraced property comprising porch, WC, lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Slater Close, Cradley Heath



£139,995

Modern detached house comprising WC, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, en-suite to master bedroom and family bathroom.

The Broadway, Dudley



EPC E

Offers Over £180,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen, downstairs shower room, family bathroom and rear garden.

Denbigh Close, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £130,000

Semi detached three bedroom property. Briefly comprising lounge, dining area, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Sledmore Road, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £115,000

Detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, extended dining room, extended kitchen, upstairs shower room, rear garden and driveway.

Birch Crescent, Tividale



Awaiting EPC

£110,000

A well presented, semi detached, two bedroom property, comprising lounge/diner, modern kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, driveway and storage garage.

Greaves Road, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £90,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Jockey Fields, Dudley



EPC C

Offers Over £60,000

First floor flat briefly comprising entrance hall, living room, kitchen, bedroom one, study room and communal gardens.

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Compact off-roader on a steady course

THERE'S something really quirky about the recently updated Suzuki Jimny.

The tiny 4x4 is a unique choice in the competitive 4x4 sector and while it clearly trails on quality where else would you get an off-roader for less than £12,000.

If you want to be picky you can identify shortcomings, particularly on the road where handling and road holding could be a lot better, but you have to remember that this is the cheapest 4X4 on the market and ticks a lot of

boxes for off-road use. Jimny is a genuine compact off-roader with push-button selectable four-wheel drive and high and low gear ratios.

The SZ3 model is just £11,995 on the road while the higher specification SZ4 on test costs £12,900 with manual transmission or £13,800 with automatic transmission.

SZ4 features synthetic leather/cloth front seats with 'Jimny' logo emblems, air conditioning, alloy wheels, leather trim steering wheel and rear privacy glass as standard equipment.

The 2013 model receives a number of exterior and interior design updates to help modernise appearance, maintaining the reputation Jimny has amongst its 20,000 loyal owners in the UK.

Design revisions include a new front bumper and grille design, new design bonnet shape incorporating central air intake as well as repositioning of the front fog lamps.

The new front bumper design has resulted in a slight increase in overall length of 30mm to 3,675mm – although Jimny easily remains the most compact SUV on sale in the UK.

For the interior, a new seat fabric trim has been adopted for the SZ3; both SZ3 and SZ4 models have new design front and rear headrests as well as ISOFIX child seat mountings fitted as standard to the rear seats.

Specification

Breeze Blue has now been added to the optional metallic paint range of four colours available for the higher specification SZ4 model with three metallic and one solid colour available for SZ3. Metallic paint is a £399 option.

Jimny has a neat and practical look and since sales began in 1998, it has accumulated a loyal following of repeat customers who enjoy a quirky alternative to a supermini or crossover SUV.

There are clear benefits in terms of fuel efficiency and exhaust emissions: with the manual transmission model returning an official 39.8mpg in combined cycle driving (38.7mpg for the automatic). Respective CO2 outputs are 162 and 167g/km.

If you're looking for speed and exciting road performance you are going to be disappointed though. The Jimny's 16-valve, 1.3-litre engine is sluggish and noisy, takes 14 seconds to reach



Inside, the Jimny's controls are clearly displayed and easy to find

60mph and top speeds at just 87mph. There's no driver's seat height adjustment or steering wheel adjustment but you still sit surprisingly high and comfortably, though getting used to offset pedals takes a little time to adjust to.

The dash has none of the hi-tech gadgets you come to expect these days and is a real throwback to days gone by and is a refreshing change with the controls clearly displayed and easy to find.

The narrow cabin means things get a bit cosy for front seat travellers and comfort levels weren't too high on the agenda when the rear seating was designed either.

Boot space is almost non-existent so it's easier to fold down the rear seats to create the space needed, meaning Jimny is really a two-

seater. All versions have front electric windows, remote central locking, roof rails and a CD player. The dearer SZ4 models add part-leather seats, a leather-trimmed steering wheel, alloy wheels and smarter looks, with two-tone roof rails, tinted glass and body-coloured door handles. Bluetooth or MP3 connection aren't available.

The Jimny has a following. There are those who want quirky 4x4 motoring and those who can't afford to step up the quality ladder.

It's 42 years since Suzuki's first compact SUV arrived on the scene and you can see just why the company has decided to make only minor changes to the new model. If it isn't broken, don't fix it.



The new Jimny has seen changes to modernise its appearance

Your essential guide to the world of motoring

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59 Reg Yaris 1.3 VVT-TR 5 dr, Gre, 34k miles.....		£6,995
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06 Reg Mitsubishi Lancer Equippe Auto 4dr Saloon, Silver, 26,000 miles.....	£3,995	£3,995
56 Reg Audi TT Quattro 3.2 Coupe Red, 76k miles.....	£10,995	£10,995
10 Reg Land Rover Freelander 2.2 TD4 E GS Black, 35k miles.....	£16,495	£16,495
58 Reg Honda Civic 2.2 SE I CDTi 5 dr, Blue, 29k miles.....	£9,295	£8,995
12 Reg Ford Fiesta Zetec 1.2 3 dr Hatch, White, 9k miles.....	£9,295	£8,995
10 Reg Hyundai i30 1.4 Classic 5dr, Silver, 22k miles.....	£6,995	£6,750
07 Reg Renault Megane Coupe 1.6 Black, 76,000 miles.....	£4,995	£4,995
09 Reg Fiat Panda 1.1 Active 5 dr, White, 18,000 miles.....	£4,495	£4,495
61 Reg Chevrolet Spark LS Plus 5 dr Hatch, Super Red, 4k miles.....	£6,495	£5,995
09 Reg Suzuki Alto SZ2 1.0 5dr Hatch. Purple, 14k miles.....	£4,995	£4,995
59 Reg Corsa Design 1.2 5 dr Hatchback, Silver, 27k miles.....	£6,995	£6,495
58 Reg VW Passat Highline TDI 4 dr Saloon, Silver, 57k miles.....	£8,995	£8,995
60 Reg Toyota IQ VVT-1 Black, 20k miles.....	£6,995	£6,995
07 Reg Honda Jazz SE Auto 5 dr Hatch, 1.3, Silver, 21k miles.....	£7,250	£6,995
56 Reg VW Beetle Cabriolet Tiptronic Auto Red, 33k miles.....	£7,995	£7,995
09 Reg Alfa Romeo Mito Lusso 3 dr Hatch, Silver, 16k miles.....	£7,995	£7,995
10 Reg Megane 2.6 i-music 100 5dr, Blue, 23k miles.....	£7,995	£7,995



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5 dr Hatch, 1.4, Red,
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Featuring a dark and moody exterior, the car is designed to appeal to a young, sporty audience and offers great value for money.

Priced at just £12,000 OTR, it is available with a highly competitive 0 per cent PCP offer for just £99 per month.

Limited to just 300 examples, the

three-door Punto Jet Black is on sale now throughout the UK Fiat dealer network so buyers will have to be quick to get one. It is available with the nippy yet frugal 1.4 8v 77hp engine, and includes a number of eye-catching features: Crossover Black Metallic paint; Jet Black badging; Matt black stripes; 17 inch 12-spoke smoked Sportline alloy wheels

The new Punto Jet Black standard specification also includes body coloured rear spoiler and side skirts, leather steering wheel and gear knob, automatic climate control, dark tinted

privacy glass, electric front windows, rear parking sensors, sports suspension, adaptive cornering fog lights, cruise control, Start & Stop, voice-controlled Blue&Me multimedia system and five airbags.

"The Punto Jet Black has striking black exterior details which will get you noticed," says Elena Bernardelli, marketing director, Fiat Group Automobiles UK. With its distinctive styling, comprehensive specification and affordable pricing, I am sure it will be very popular with younger customers."

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COMPANY NUMBER: 1618860
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above named Company will be held at, 'Hinley Hall', Dudley Road, Hinley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 4DE, on **TUESDAY 14th MAY 2013 @ 11.30am** for the purposes provided for in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Creditors should note that the resolutions to be voted on at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the method of calculating liquidator's remuneration. Creditors at the meeting will receive information and advised about the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting.
Frank Anthony Hatch of F A Hatch & Co, 'Castle View', 48 Salop Street, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 3AY, (Tel No. 01384 458262), is a person retained by the Company for the purposes of convening the meeting and who will, during the period before the day of the Meeting, furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
A Proxy intended to be used at the Meeting must be lodged with the Secretary of the Company C/o F A Hatch & Co, 'Castle View' 48 Salop Street, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 3AY, not later than 12.00 noon on **MONDAY 13th MAY 2013.**
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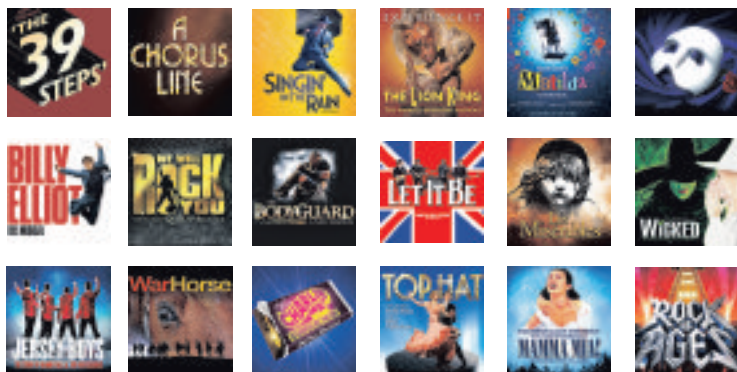
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Arkell in top form as tables turned

Chess club

THE chess season is drawing to a close with just a few remaining matches for Stourbridge.

On Monday, the club played its last match in the Worcester league division 2 and drew against Droitwich with all four players drawing. This includes commendable ones for juniors Charlie and Dan Arkell, who show great promise for next season.

The team has finished fourth out of six with two wins, two draws and six defeats.

Last Wednesday, the club was at home to Warley Quinborne in division one of the Dudley league. Prior to this match, Warley Quinborne were favourites to win the league and they brought a strong team. However, Stourbridge put in a fantastic performance to win 2.5-1.5.

On board one Nick Arkell won his game in a time scramble and Paul Sharratt on board four put in a great performance against a higher rated player to win his game. Julie Wilson on board three should have also won but ran out of time and had to settle for a draw.

Not an easy game for the champions

West Hagley FC East 2 South Birmingham
Alliance White under 11s 2
CHAMPIONS South Birmingham Alliance Whites comfortably beat West Hagley the week before, but on this occasion, on their last game of the season, Hagley were at 110 per cent.

Hagley were a goal down at the break but in the second half Daniel Monger scored from a corner.

Birmingham scored again, to make it 2-1, but moments later George Edmonds equalised again from the edge of the box. Tom Benson almost won it with the last kick of the game.

Manager Darren Wood said he was very proud of the team this season.

"They've given 110 per cent all year, they've taken big steps in their development as a team and as individuals and they've had a lot of fun along the way," he said.

Ladies lord it over opponents in big win

Halesowen 4 Solihull 1

HALESOWEN started brightly, keeping the young Solihull side defending for their lives.

They were still dangerous with the long ball and counter attack but strong Halesowen centre backs of Charlotte Byatt and Dominique McKee snuffed out any attacks.

Rachel Letford broke the deadlock on 20 minutes. God work on the left from Shannie Jennings found Letford and a low strike gave the Yeltz the lead.

This brought Solihull to life and forced some good pressure. Lauren Gilbert made a fine save as the goal was left open but the equaliser came when

Halesowen Ladies

a cross took an awkward bounce to catch out the back four and fall to an oncoming midfielder, who slotted the ball pass Gilbert. Halesowen replied with numerous attacks but woeful finishing kept the game 1-1 at half-time.

The second half saw Sabrina Dale and Alex Williams both coming on and this changed the game instantly.

With Halesowen pushing for the win they were rewarded with a goal from Angie Morley. More great play by Jennings set up Morley with a volley into the Solihull net. Striker Chloe Harris

was put through by Morley and perfectly placed the ball past the stranded keeper. They came close on numerous chances. Jo Butler's powerful strike cannoned off the cross bar and Jennings hit the upright with a low drive.

Hungry Halesowen got another goal when Williams found Shel Thomas, who weaved past the midfield before passing to skipper Dani Reade. She calmly found Morley free with a perfectly weighted ball and her powerful volley left the keeper no chance.

Yeltz manager Scott McKee said: "Solihull never gave up and credit to them but second half I thought we were fantastic."



Yeltz skipper Dani Reade on the ball against Solihull

Failure to take chances is costly

Halas Hawks 1 Brierley Hill Bullets 3

HALAS U-14s were on top for much of the game but couldn't convert chances. They went behind in the first half and fell further behind before Cain Brissett pulled one back, but Brierley Hill got another. Man of the match was Connor Fisher.

Halas Hawks 2 Kewford Eagles West 1

HALAS U-15s went a goal up in the first half through Adam Higginson. Kewford equalised before Halas went on to secure the points. Halas man of the match was Adam Higginson.

Smethwick Sikh Temple 0 Halas Hawks 1

THE U-16s climbed to the top of the league with this win, Dan Willets scoring the vital goal. Halas are in the League Cup final next week and follow that with two games which could see them secure the league title.

Girls League: Withymoor 3 Halas Hawks 2

DESPITE goals from Amy Blakemore and Megan Hipkiss and other scoring opportunities, Halas U-15s couldn't prevent Withymoor scoring the winner in the dying stages of this John Rochelle Shield game.

Old Wulfs too strong for Hasbury

Hasbury Rangers 0 Old Wulfs 3 - Stourbridge League U15 Division One

ALREADY crowned as League champions, Old Wulfs cruised to victory over a Hasbury team with hopes of finishing third.

Wulfs stepped up the tempo and forced a series of corners. As the pressure mounted, Rory Harrison was on hand to hook in the opening goal. Hasbury responded with a charging run from Jordan Leek who forced a fine save from Harry Morris.

The second half was only a few minutes old when a fast counter-attack caught the home side napping. Zak Lilly's chip forward was met by a good finish by Luke Scorey. Wulfs remained in control of the game but in a rare break James Chew clipped the post. However, a jinking run by Djoffre Mpoyi set up a simple finish for Scorey's second goal to seal the points.

Winning draw means Hagley keep third spot

DIVISION One 1st XI has just two sides, Astwood Bank and Droitwich, with 100 per cent records after two matches.

Astwood Bank thrashed newly-promoted Burghill and Tillington by 170 runs. Droitwich sent Dominies to the foot of the table with an eight-wicket win, *writes Chris Marsh.*

Hagley could only manage a winning draw and now sit three points behind the top two, five ahead of Worcester who followed up last week's win at Redditch with a winning draw over Belbroughton, who occupy the second relegation spot as a result, thanks to 141 from the resigned Nick Brown.

In the other two matches, there were first wins for Redditch, who beat Pedmore, and Pershore for whom Lee Wilks compiled a colossal 156 against Bromyard. Next week Astwood entertain Bromyard and Droitwich go to Pershore.

Eased

Division Two 1st XIs have four sides with a perfect start after two rounds. Two of them, Enville and Harvington have put together two 24 point wins each. This week Enville beat Feckenham and Harvington overcame Coombs Wood.

Bewdley eased past Stourport thanks to 114 not out from Nick Wilkinson. Rushwick bundled out Netherton for just 79.

The final two matches saw wins for Colwall at Tenbury and Wormelow at Cookley.

In Division Three 1st XI, newly-promoted Lye have 48

Worcester County Cricket League

points after another fine win, this time over Ross on Wye, with Sakib Ali scoring 123 not out. Alveley beat Stourbridge Social and Malvern and Alvechurch.

Romsley beat Himley at home where Steve Randall made 156 and took four wickets. Harborne beat bottom side Birlingham.

In Division Four there were wins for Old Hill, Old Vigornians, Chaddesley and Kidderminster. Halesowen draw against Cleobury.

In the 2nd XIs, Division one Enville beat Pershore yet trail Astwood Bank who beat Rushwick. There were wins for Pedmore and Colwall and 10-point winning draws for Belbroughton and Hagley. In Division two, Netherton stay top despite not taking Stourbridge Social's final wicket. They held Oldswinford who had a similar problem against Stourbridge Social.

In Division three Lye had a second 24-point win. Old Hill won in division four as did Stourbridge in five.

Halas Hawks first winners of Invitation Cup



Halas East under-12s, who lifted the Stourbridge Junior Invitation Cup held at Dudley Sports FC

Stourbridge Junior Invitation Cup Halas Hawks 1 Legion Lions 0

THE first final of this competition set up by the Stourbridge & District Youth & Girls Football League, saw Halas Hawks meet Legion Lions in the U12 age group at Dudley Sports FC.

Legion had already claimed the Stourbridge League title and were favourites for this cup, but in a match

where Legion had much of the play, Halas showed why they were dangerous on the break when Jordan Berry scored the only goal to ensure Halas' name was the first name on the cup.

Results of other finals were: U13s, Wilden Village 4 Silverdale 0; U15s, Gornal Colts North 2 Hasbury 1. The U11s and U15s finals are due to be played over the next two weekends.

League chairman Bob Hickman

said: "This brand new competition was set up to raise funds for local charities and approximately £2,000 will be donated. It was open to leagues throughout the Midlands and after this inaugural season, we believe that the competition will go from strength to strength."

"Credit must be given to the league committee, especially the main organiser, Roger Smart."



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Hawks flying high

Team wins Invitation Cup
See page 39

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Strikes by Jones set up victory

Dudley & Cradley Heath League

FC Baggeridge 4
Pennett Utd Hurst Hill 2
FC Baggeridge put in a strong and assured first half performance in this Premier Division match to lead 2-0 with goals from Dave Jones and Frankie Bennett.

Pennett put up a strong start to the second half but Baggeridge struck on the counter and Jones converted a spot-kick for his second. Pennett fought back with two goals from Andy Perry but as they pushed for the equaliser they were once again caught out on the counter attack when Tom Beech scored the fourth.

Cyclist Jayne sets the pace

STOURBRIDGE Cycling Club's Jayne Cheslin stormed to a handicap prize in her first-ever open event in Coventry.

Jayne's only other time trial racing experience was a couple of club events round the local Bobbington course. The annual 'Dianne Cooke Memorial Event' attracts the top women riders from all around the country.

Jayne said: "I didn't realise that it's a big event for women racers. I was a little out of my depth, the field included a Triathlon European Champion.

"But I crossed the line in 29.30 which is a Personal Best and I won third in the handicap competition."

Club Chairman Kevin Payton said: "Jayne certainly went in at the deep end. This is a top event with a super field so she did great to get on the prize list. I hope more women members will follow her example."

Tigers show their claws as DK are defeated

Sheffield Tigers 32 Dudley Kingswinford 26
THIS win by the Tigers secured sixth place for the team in National 2 North

Dudley Kingswinford had first use of a stiff breeze in what was for both sides their penultimate match of a long season.

The first quarter was a scrappy affair with possession mainly dominated by the big DK pack of forwards. Tigers were taking time to settle into a rhythm and conceded a penalty at a ruck. After 18 minutes, a DK forward had been played in the air and stand-off Gareth Bown had nine easy points on the

Dudley Kingswinford

scoreboard. This stung Tigers into action. A driving maul took the game to DKW and Jon Buchanan made a good break.

The ball was recycled left and full-back Alex Graham joined the three-quarter line, made an outside break and scored a five pointer on 25 minutes.

Tigers were now putting together phases of possession and, after a penalty to the corner, a catch and drive led to Biff Pearson touching down to give Tigers a slender one point lead. The conversion was missed by Tom Outram. Outram kicked a penalty for a

half-time score of 13-9 to Tigers. Biff Pearson featured strongly at the start of the second half as Tigers had the wind advantage. The visitors indiscipline led to them being reduced to 13 players.

Tigers opted for a scrummage from the second offence and the advancing scrum enabled Pearson to touch down for his second try. This extended the Tigers lead to nine points after just four minutes of the half. Bown cut this to six points with a penalty from in front of the posts. The DK centres were still showing that with any good possession they could pose an attacking threat but another rampaging run by

Walker forced the visitors to defend. This was to no avail as Max Argyle powered over for a seven pointer to extend Tigers' lead to 25-12. DK came back with spirit and put hooker Matthew Humphries over.

Bown's conversion reduced the Tigers' lead to only six points. Due to an infringement Tigers were going to have to play the last 10 minutes a man short.

Replacement scrum-half Alex Drage saw a gap in the defence and ducked his way over for a try, converted by Ben Parker. There was still time for DK replacement Joe Carpenter to touch down for a seven pointer to give Tigers a nervous last two minutes.

Progress pleasing for new Heathen

DAN Greenwood is delighted with the progress he has made in Heathen colours.

Having joined the club at the start of 2012 as a three-point reserve, the Chesterfield-born racer now finds himself riding in the No.4 race jacket for the former-Cradley club.

He has made a strong start to the new campaign – with 24+3 points from the opening four meetings.

The National Shield second leg tie with Mildenhall just over a week ago did prove tough for Greenwood – with a heavy fall in his first ride knocking him back before he ended on 4+1.

Yet overall he has been happy with his season to date. He said: "I've come a long way since starting last season at reserve, and now I'm battling away in the middle order."

"It's a little difficult at times but I'm still scoring points and I'm happy with how I've progressed."

"I'm really happy with how I've started the season except for Mildenhall which was the last one where it hasn't gone to plan. When you start with a crash in your first ride it's never good."

Brooks leads the way for runners

LAST Wednesday saw the local Dudley Kingswinford 10K annual midweek race (DK10). Stourbridge was represented by a contingent of 21 runners.

First to cross the line was Nick Brooks (23rd overall out of a field of 749 runners) with a time of 37:16, second was Kevin Burke with 39:01 (43rd overall) and third David Rose 39:36 (50th).

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CLARKE PRAISES HIS ADAPTABLE ALBION

BOSS Steve Clarke hailed Albion's adaptability after they fought out a narrow defeat at Manchester City despite a host of changes.

Clarke made four personnel changes and a major tactical switch for Tuesday night's game at the Etihad Stadium but saw his side push last season's Premier League champions all the way in the 1-0 defeat.

The Baggies – operating with a 3-5-2 formation for the first time under Clarke – were beaten by Edin Dzeko's first-half goal.

"We started really well," said Clarke.

"We changed the shape and tried something different and, if I'm honest, I would have liked at least another training session at it."

"But the players' application and the way they put the system into practice was excellent and I think we maybe caught Manchester City out."

"In the early stages of the game we should have been in front."

Mistakes

"But then we were so comfortable in the game we got a little bit cocky and carried away."

"We made a few mistakes which invited City back into the game and if you do that with quality players you get punished."

Clarke handed rare starts to Boaz Myhill in goal and Gabriel Tamas on the right of his back three as well as recalling James Morrison after injury and starting with centre-back Craig Dawson following his loan at Bolton.

The head coach said: "Craig slotted in well and Gabi Tamas came in and

by Steve Madeley

played like the international player he is.

"Jonas Olsson was there as the left-sided balance so it was a good three and the two wing-backs were energetic."

"Boaz Myhill got his chance in the team earlier in the season and did great."

"He's an international goalkeeper and has been working hard in training. "I felt it was a good chance to give him a game and he was excellent."

"The change of system is something that has been in my mind for a few weeks."

"Obviously you have to pick and choose the right games."

"This was a game I felt it might be a good night to try it and it turned out it was."

"Maybe another training session or two and it would have been better."

"But the way the players put it into practice was excellent and I'm really pleased with them."

● Albion are preparing to pay their tribute to Alex Ferguson when he manages Manchester United for the last time.

The United boss will end his 26-year reign at Old Trafford when the champions finish their Premier League season at The Hawthorns on May 19.



Albion's Romelu Lukaku gets away from Manchester City's Micah Richards during the defeat at the Etihad Stadium

Odemwingie affair 'could prove disruptive'

JAMES Morrison has admitted that Peter Odemwingie's fall-out with Albion fans risks upsetting the team as the want-away striker prepared for a fresh attempt to leave The Hawthorns.

Odemwingie remains determined to move on in the summer despite an amicable meeting with Baggies officials last week – before he argued with supporters during Saturday's 3-2 defeat to Wigan.

Morrison, who witnessed the fall-out

at close quarters, admitted the situation has become potentially disruptive.

"I was warming up next to him and I heard him getting a little bit of stick," said Morrison.

"Pete reacted, which he probably shouldn't have done, but that's probably the mental state he is in at the moment. He has taken a lot of flak but Pete probably should know better than to react."

Odemwingie met high-ranking

Albion officials last week – a meeting which also included PFA chairman Gordon Taylor – and is thought to have reiterated his desire to leave having struggled to repair his relationship with fans following his highly-publicised attempts to move on in January.

Albion appear to be willing to sanction a move providing they receive a suitable offer with the 31-year-old set to enter the final year of his contract in the summer.

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